

Hafa Adai!

DFEMS wants 2 fire trucks. PAGE 2

Group wants co-management of marine monument. PAGE 3

Saipan Tribune

THE CNMI'S FIRST DAILY NEWSPAPER

Volume XXVII, Issue No. 138

www.saipantribune.com

THURSDAY JULY 13, 2017

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75¢

CARE asks for \$650K

By **ERWIN ENCINARES**
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REPORTER

Nearly two years after Typhoon Soudelor hit the CNMI in August 2015, a total of 48 families comprising 177 individuals are still waiting for help to rebuild their homes.

In order to do that, the group that has taken the lead in the rebuilding efforts, the Commonwealth Advocates for Recovery Efforts, would

» **48 families still waiting for help to rebuild homes**

need \$650,000.

CARE executive director Jenny Hegland told the House of Representatives last Tuesday that the group has already assisted 745 residents all over Saipan that needed either building materials or labor but the group still needs \$650,000 for the rest.

Since its creation back in 2015,
See CARE on Page 4

Govt assures legal status of CHC nurses

By **BEA CABRERA**
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REPORTER

Commonwealth Health Center nurses who remained in the CNMI after the expiration of their CNMI-only Transitional Workers visas last July 1, 2017, have been assured that their stay remains lawful.

This came about after their 240-day extensions were filed with U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services.

In a statement last week by Com-
See NURSES on Page 4

Camera allegedly shows man stealing anew

By **FERDIE DE LA TORRE**
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REPORTER

Just a month since being released after a five-year prison term, Martin Tiamson Castro Jr. is back in

jail, this time for allegedly stealing a cell phone from a store. This time, footage from a surveillance camera allegedly caught him committing the robbery.

Castro, 31, was taken before the

Superior Court on Tuesday for a bail hearing on a theft charge. The camera footage led to his identification and subsequent arrest for allegedly stealing a cell phone from the

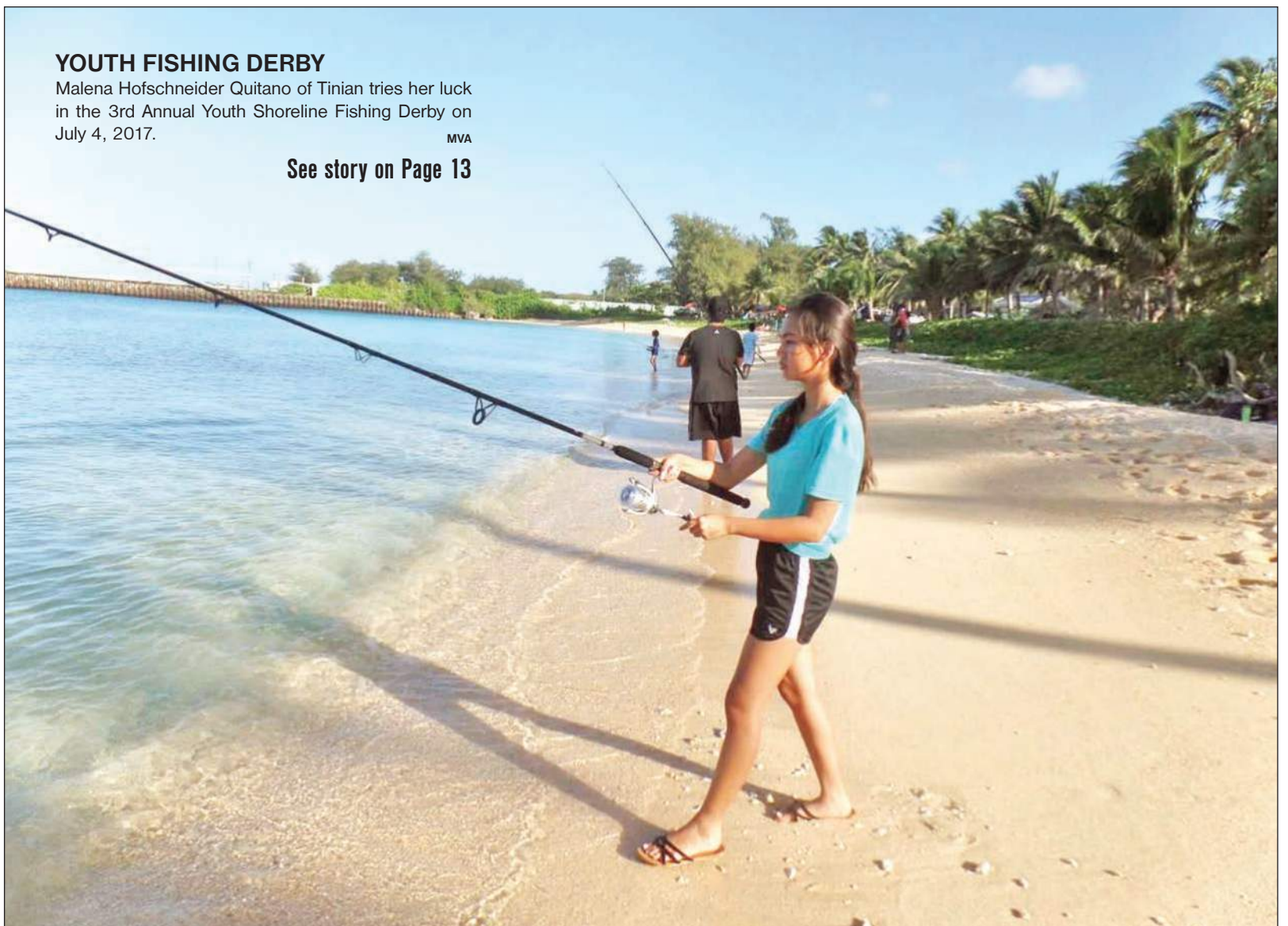
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YOUTH FISHING DERBY

Malena Hofschneider Quitano of Tinian tries her luck in the 3rd Annual Youth Shoreline Fishing Derby on July 4, 2017.

MVA

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INSIDE



WORLD

Airstrikes, shelling and other heavy clashes shake a small sliver of Mosul.

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ENVIRONMENT

Global warming will likely heighten the risk of large, more difficult to control wildfires.

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LIFE & STYLE

A Japanese history buff has undermined a new Amelia Earhart theory.

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Local

DFEMS wants 2 fire trucks

By **ERWIN ENCINARES**
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REPORTER

The Department of Fire and Emergency Medical Services asked both the House of Representatives and the Senate for more money so it could buy two fire trucks.

DFEMS chief Clyde Norita said that Gov. Ralph DLG Torres' proposed budget of \$3.9 million for the department is sufficient but he wants \$800,000 more to secure two more fire trucks in order to shorten response time.

"Our biggest priorities are the purchase of two new [fire trucks], which are \$400,000 apiece," he said, adding that the \$400,000 already includes each truck's



Department of Fire and Emergency Medical Services Commissioner Clyde Norita and other department officials face the House Ways and Means Committee earlier this week. **ERWIN ENCINARES**

delivery to Saipan.

According to Norita, DFEMS currently has two trucks on Saipan, one of them being inoperable since a forest fire on Capital Hill. "We only have one fire truck that's

working right now," he said. It is at the Garapan Fire Station.

Norita said the stations' locations were designed to lessen the response time to between six and nine minutes.

When asked if an addition-

al fire truck would improve DFEMS' response time, he said, "If there is no engine in the station, it's still not going to solve the problem."

Despite this handicap, Norita noted that DFEMS still

responds within four to five minutes of a call. The only problem is that ambulances are usually the vehicles used to respond to emergencies and, in the event of a fire, nothing could be done but wait.

"The pumper is critical—every station should have a [fire truck]," said Norita, adding that this was the second consecutive year that DFEMS has been asking for fire trucks.

DFEMS is asking the Legislature for \$4.7 million for fiscal year 2018, about \$800,000 more than the Torres' proposed budget due to the requisition of two fire trucks.

Unlike other government agencies, Norita said the department does not lack personnel since the previous class graduated about 38 cadets.

There are six fire stations on Saipan and one each on Rota and Tinian.

Thursday Market resumes today

By **KIMBERLY A. BAUTISTA**
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REPORTER

The weekly Thursday Market held at the Garapan Fishing Base will return to its normal weekly schedule starting tonight.

The Garapan Fishing Base has served as the location for the numerous festivities celebrated on the island this year. This has interfered with the schedule of the weekly Thursday Market but, according to Department of Community and Cultural Affairs Secretary Robert Hunter, the Thursday Market is set to return to its usual operations today.

The most recent event at the site was the 2017 Liberation Day festival. According to Saipan Mayor David M. Apatang, one of the reasons that the festivities were cut short was to give way to the weekly Thursday Market so it could return to its regular schedule.

Aptang and his office have been working as early as Monday in order to take down the equipment that were used during the festival.

The office has successfully cleaned and taken down all the equipment in time for the Thursday Market to start up

their operations today.

The Saipan Mayor's Office is scheduled to present prizes to the winners of the Liberation Day float competition, raffle drawing, and concession booth competition on Friday, July 14, 2017, at the Saipan Mayor's Office conference room, beginning 10am.

"We are calling on the winners of the float, raffle, and booth competitions to visit our office on Friday, July 14, at 10am to receive their prizes," said Apatang. "The 2017 Fourth of July Liberation Day festival was a success because our community came together and contributed a lot to make it very meaningful, and for that we are very grateful to everyone."

"Along with the Liberation Day Committee, Gov. Ralph DLG Torres and Lt. Gov. Victor B. Hocog, presiding officers and members of the Legislature, and chairman of the Saipan and Northern Islands Legislative Delegation, we want to extend a sincere appreciation everyone who helped and participated in our festivities. We want to thank the people of Saipan for coming out and joining everyone," added Apatang.



NEW APPOINTEES

Members of the 20th CNMI Senate pose with the newly approved appointees Charles Cepeda, Zenie Mafnas, and Weston Thomas Deleon Guerrero. **ERWIN ENCINARES**

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Group wants co-management of marine monument

By **KIMBERLY A. BAUTISTA**
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REPORTER

The Friends of the Mariana Trench is lobbying the Trump administration to consider equal co-management of the Marianas Trench Marine

Monument with the CNMI government.

In response to U.S. President Donald J. Trump's Executive Order 13792, which direct the Department of the Interior to review monument designations under the An-

tiquities Act, Friends of the Mariana Trench chair Ignacio Cabrera underscored with the federal government how important the monuments are to the people of the Commonwealth.

In a letter to Interior Secretary Ryan Zinke and the U.S. Chamber of Commerce Secretary Wilbur Ross, Cabrera said the Commonwealth government should be given equal rights when deciding the fate of the monument.

The monument includes the Marianas Trench and 95,216 square miles of submerged lands and waters in various

places in the Mariana Archipelago.

The designation of the Marianas Trench as a monument happened in 2008 under President George W. Bush's administration. Former governor Benigno Fitial's administration worked closely with the Bush administration to establish the monument.

According to Cabrera, the indigenous Chamorro and Carolinian cultures in the Marianas depend on the preservation of the monument for future generations.

In his letter, Cabrera suggests that the local govern-

ment should have an equal seat in the discussion of the monument because overturning the monument "would defeat" its main purpose, which is to preserve the marine life surrounding the Marianas Trench. "Overturning the monument and allowing commercial fishing would directly harm the visitor industry, the largest economic activity on our island," added Cabrera.

Aside from co-management of the marine monument, the Friends of the Mariana Trench has also requested that the local government be granted

sanctuary process upon request of Gov. Ralph DLG Torres, adding that areas surrounding the Marianas Islands should be part of the Marianas Trench National Marine Sanctuary. Funding was also requested in order to carry out the management of the Pacific Marine Monument.

According to Cabrera's letter, the Marianas Trench Monument protects the culture of the indigenous Chamorro and Carolinian people and the special natural resources of the Marianas Trench.

"Protecting and honoring these places is our duty as American citizens, indigenous people, and as islanders," said Cabrera.

Legislature calls for probe on 3 workers' deaths

By **ERWIN ENCINARES**
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REPORTER

Lawmakers are calling for an investigation on the tragic deaths of three employees of USA Fanter Ltd. who were working on a Commonwealth Utilities Corp. sewer well. One intimated that the Occupational Safety and Health Administration should join the probe.

The Department of Public Safety believes the deaths were caused by the inhalation of toxic gas inside the sewer well. Because of this, Sen. Tere-sita Santos (R-Rota) believes OSHA should "step in also."

"I think a thorough investigation should immediately be conducted, including an autopsy to determine the actual cause of death of the employees," said Santos, who chairs the Senate Committee on Health and Welfare.

Rep. Jose Itibus (R-Saipan), chairman of the House Committee on Health, noted that this was the "first time this has happened" in the Commonwealth and expressed sympathy to the families of the three workers who were killed.

Despite this, Itibus believes that now is not the time to point fingers, but rather to focus on how to "prevent it from happening again in the future."

"When a contract is made,

[the Commonwealth Utilities Corp.] should be putting into the contract that safety issues [should be considered]," he said.

Itibus agrees that if an OSHA investigation is warranted, "I am in support of it."

Sen. Sixto Igisomar (R-Saipan) referred to the three victims as "good, hardworking people."

"I salute them for their dedication to their work, because it is in fulfilling their duties (bravely going down that manhole), that they unfortunately fell to their fatal and untimely demise," said Igisomar, who chairs the Senate Committee on Public Utilities and Transportation.

"It is with heavy hearts and disconcerted minds that the people of the CNMI extend their deepest condolences over the most unfortunate passing of three valuable construction workers last Friday," he said.

Both DPS and CUC are investigating the matter. An earlier statement from USA Fanter said that they were willing to work with government authorities that are responsible for investigating the tragedy.

USA Fanter is a subcontractor of CUC and was tasked to perform sewer system rehabilitation work at the Pakpak Beach area in San Antonio where the sewer well is located.

Senate approves multiple positions

By **ERWIN ENCINARES**
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REPORTER

The Senate approved Tuesday three of Gov. Ralph DLG Torres' appointees to the boards of the Commonwealth Utilities Corp. and the Northern Marianas College.

The Senate voted to approve the appointment of Weston Thomas Deleon Guerrero to the CUC board and Zenie Mafnas and Charles Cepeda to the NMC Board of Regents.

Deleon Guerrero, who is now officially the only member of the CUC board, is a structural engineering graduate from the University of California San Diego.

"I hope that [Deleon Guerrero]...firmly and consistently uphold your fiduciary responsibilities as a member of the CUC board," said Sen. Tere-sita Santos (R-Rota), emphasizing that public trust is hard to get back once broken.

Sen. Justo Quitugua (Ind-

Saipan) wants Deleon Guerrero to "provide good guidance with his involvement with the CUC board." Quitugua also recommended that Deleon Guerrero look at possible training for CUC employees.

Following the approval, the Senate voted to approve both appointments of Mafnas and Cepeda to the NMC board.

Lt. Gov. Victor B. Hocog appointed Mafnas late last year, while Cepeda served as board chair back in 2008.

The current NMC board chair is Mike N. Evangelista, who has been serving as board chair since November 2016.

There was one remaining gubernatorial appointment that did not push through. The approval of Vincent Attao's appointment as Department of Corrections commissioner was postponed as Attao is currently off-island.

Following the approvals of the appointees, the Senate has verbally agreed to hold another Senate session next week.



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Reality tests search-and-rescue workshop

When a mariner is found at sea it is no accident. In fact it is often the result of hours of deliberate search and rescue planning and continually nurtured partnerships across jurisdictions and borders. Search and rescue governance is an important element in the Pacific where vast distances and limited resources make saving lives all the more challenging.

The Pacific Search and Rescue Steering Committee

The committee is a collective of search and rescue agencies from five principle nations: Australia, Fiji, France, New Zealand, and the United States. These nations hold responsibility for significant search and rescue regions of the Pacific. Each nation is committed to working with neighboring countries or territories within or near their areas of responsibility to build SAR response capability. Communally, the committee is working to build SAR capability and cooperation across the Pacific to work together seamlessly to save lives.

The Workshop

This year's Seventh Pacific Regional Search and Rescue Workshop was held in Auckland, New Zealand, and jointly hosted and organized by the government of New Zealand with support of the International Maritime Organization and Secretariat of

the Pacific Community.

The workshop was the largest attended event since the inception in 2006, with over 110 attendees representing 21 Pacific Island countries and territories and another 14 regional partners and observers, including International Maritime Organization and International Maritime Rescue Federation.

The U.S. Coast Guard was involved in several facets of the workshop.

The 14th Coast Guard District is scheduled to host the next workshop in Honolulu, Hawaii, in 2019.

Demonstration Becomes Reality

The Pacific region faces a unique set of challenges when it comes to search and rescue.

With small countries and dispersed island groups with diverse levels of economic growth and significant communication challenges, there is limited access to SAR assets and response coordination capabilities.

Effective response in an already challenging field becomes even more difficult over the 31 million square miles of Pacific Ocean with dynamic weather.

Upon completion of the weeklong conference and harbor demonstration, a U.S. Coast Guard crew, the Hercules, prepared for their long flight home, back to Oahu, Hawaii. Prior to departure, the crew was notified of a Tongan



Members of the Pacific Search and Rescue Steering Committee stand with the U.S. Coast Guard HC-130 Hercules airplane in Auckland, New Zealand May 23, 2017. The committee is working to build SAR capability and cooperation across the Pacific to work together seamlessly to save lives.

U.S. COAST GUARD / PETTY OFFICER 3RD CLASS AMANDA LEVASSEUR

vessel two days overdue.

Tonga is in the Pacific region, relevant to the workshop just held and in the path of the Hercules' flight home.

Despite being eager to return home, the crew agreed to conduct search patterns off the coast of Tonga to search for the overdue vessel and the six men aboard.

Four hours into the flight the crew arrived in the area the Tongan vessel was believed to be.

Though loss of daylight was a challenge, the crew began search patterns provided by Rescue Coordination Center New Zealand. Lt. Cmdr. Michael Koehler, pilot of the Hercules, wore night vision goggles while scanning the dark waters below. Other crewmembers

were in the belly of the plane scanning the ocean.

In less than two hours, 80 miles off Tonga, Koehler saw something in the water. The crew zoomed in on the camera monitor. A 40-foot vessel was spotted with men on top of their superstructure waving their arms and white cloths.

The Tongan vessel lost power days prior and drifted offshore with no communication capabilities. The Hercules prepared for a gear drop, much like the one they had just demonstrated the day before during the SAR workshop when they dropped a life raft, except this time they were preparing to deliver a long-range deployable drop kit. The kit included food rations, water,

a VHF radio to make contact with the vessel and a transponder to emit their location.

"I am proud of my crew and how well we represented the United States this past week," said Koehler. "We were in New Zealand at the 2017 Pacific Search and Rescue Conference talking to delegates from Tonga about search and rescue capabilities and the

next day we spotted a disabled vessel 80 miles off of Tonga's shore using night vision goggles without the use of radar. The conference was designed to strengthen relationships and enhance search and rescue interoperability in the region to address rescue situations like exactly like this and working together we are saving lives in the Pacific." (USCG)

CARE

From Page 1

CARE has raised \$2.4 million to help families rebuild their homes.

Partnering with the American Red Cross, CARE has identified 48 families that are deemed to have "major needs of repair."

"Without funding from the [Saipan and Northern Islands Legislative Delegation], we

have nowhere else because we have done our search of resources already," said Janet Santos, American Red Cross-NMI Chapter supervisor for disaster case management.

According to Hegland, if CARE is able to raise the \$650,000, it could leverage the funding to secure \$2.1 million in additional funding from the Federal Emergency Management Agency. The \$2.1 million would be used to finance the airfare of the Men-

nonite Disaster Service volunteers, among others, who have been helping with the rebuilding efforts.

"[The lawmakers] responded extremely positively because their comments indicated that they really saw the value in their constituents," said Hegland. "They really understand the importance of resilient housing in our community."

Rep. Ed Propst (Ind-Saipan) was thankful to the organization for assisting.

"The \$650,000 [CARE] is asking for is a small price to pay, especially if you look at it percentage-wise," he said, adding that the body would find the means to "find the funding for it."

"We have the Mennonites out here, federal government support, and different private organizations that have contributed. We have to do our share," said Propst, adding that it was merely a matter of finding the funding to support the group.

NURSES

From Page 1

monwealth Healthcare Corp. CEO Esther Muña, she said, "We committed ourselves to this and we know that the governor, [Delegate Gregorio] Kilili [C. Sablan], and the entire CNMI government supports them, especially the community. We also offered our legal counsel to be with them when they face the consul in the U.S. Embassy."

Last July 6, 2017, the House of Representative adopted House Resolution 20-12 that identified the nurses as healthcare professionals employed at CHC in critical positions

because they work in the emergency room, operating room, neo-natal wing, and dialysis center.

HR 20-12 seeks to inform the U.S. Embassy to permit the re-entry of the nurses because they have been granted a 240-day extension to stay in the CNMI during the processing of their CW permit by USCIS.

The resolution further states that the CNMI House of Representatives affirms that the nurses did not overstay in the CNMI and USCIS encourages them to remain in the CNMI pursuant to direction from USCIS Honolulu District Director David G. Gulick, who has confirmed

that the nurses and their dependents are eligible for the 240-day extension.

"What I promised to them as a group is we would deliver despite the fact that majority of them have left. So we are going to get them the documents that they asked for," Muña said.

Gov. Ralph DLG Torres wrote a pledge of support for the re-entry of the nurses to the CNMI, citing that they are valued members of the healthcare workforce and that they play a key role in providing healthcare for the residents of the islands.

Fear of violating immigration rules and the lack of coordination between USCIS

and the U.S. Embassy in the Philippines, where the latter is believed to be unaware of the 240-day extension USCIS granted CW-1 workers in CNMI, have left the nurses with nagging and persistent doubts about their immigration status.

Last week, CHCC expressed a desire to raise the salaries of its nurses as a primary means to attract and retain personnel.

According to Muña, CHCC is looking at the current salaries and looking at hiring more nurses. To date, CHCC is looking at hiring retired nurses and giving nurses EB-2 and H1-B visas to eligible employees.

CAMERA

From Page 1

I-Zone Internet Café in Chalan Kanoa on Monday.

A cash bail of \$10,000 was imposed on Castro; preliminary hearing is on July 18 at 1:30pm.

Assistant public defender Cindy Nesbit was appointed his counsel.

Assistant attorney general Heather Barcinas told Associate Judge Joseph N. Camacho, who is handling the case, that Castro had just been released from prison last month.

According to police, an officer responded to I-Zone Internet Café on Monday afternoon after receiving a call about a theft incident. The officer met with the owner, who showed the officer a surveillance camera's footage of a man, later identified as Castro, stealing a Galaxy Samsung S7 Prim cell phone worth \$399.

In the footage, Castro was standing next to the glass counter when he reached across the counter, grabbed the phone, placed it in his right pocket, and left the store. At that time, Castro was wearing a pair of short black pants, a pair of black slippers, and a brown T-shirt with a word "tourism" printed on it.

The officer described Castro to other police units and instructed them to arrest him. Less than an hour later, another officer found Castro at Aiko's Ramen in Susupe. The I-Zone owner positively identified Castro as the person who

stole the cell phone.

When asked about the cell phone, Castro allegedly replied that it's somewhere in Chalan Piao.

The Superior Court sentenced Castro to five years in prison in October 2012 after he pleaded guilty in connection with a robbery at QQ Car Rental in June 2012.

Castro, who was then on probation, was caught on camera robbing the car company and sexually assaulting a female employee. Castro removed the surveillance camera from the establishment, then threw it out a window.

The camera, however, was not destroyed as it landed on a grassy area. Police recovered it and reviewed the footage, leading to Castro's identification and arrest.

At that time, Castro was still on probation in connection with a 2010 burglary case in which he also pleaded guilty. He also pleaded guilty in another burglary case in 2005.

In September 2010, then Associate Judge David A. Wiseman sentenced Castro to a year in prison for stealing a laptop.

In 2009, police arrested him for trying to break into one of the rooms of San Antonio Elementary School.

In 2003, he and two minors were arrested after police identified them as those who burglarized and stole several items from a law office of then-retired judge Edward Manibusan. Manibusan is now the CNMI's attorney general.

Man who caused havoc on Pagan gets 382-day prison term

By **FERDIE DE LA TORRE**
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REPORTER

Superior Court Presiding Judge Roberto C. Naraja has slapped a 382-day prison term on the man who caused havoc on Pagan by setting fire to helicopter fuel tanks, shooting a radio communication system, breaking into the mayor's house with a sledgehammer, and damaging a vehicle.

Naraja sentenced Crispin Fitipol Castro, 39, on Tuesday to five years imprisonment, all suspended except for 382 days, for the offenses of reckless burning and criminal mischief.

In a written order yesterday, Naraja said that Castro is to be released from custody tomorrow, Friday, at 4pm, because as of that day he will have served 382 days in custody.

Castro will be placed on supervised probation for five years.

He was ordered to pay restitution to the estate of former Northern Islands mayor Jerome Aldan, the Northern Islands Mayor's Office, Department of Public Safety, and councilman

Diego Kaipat—in an amount to be determined on Oct. 17, 2017.

Castro was required to pay a \$100 court assessment fee plus probation fee in an amount to be determined by the Office of Adult Probation, perform 1,000 hours of community service, and write a letter of apology to Linda Kaipat.

During his probation, Castro is prohibited from drinking alcoholic beverages or using controlled substances.

Naraja said that Castro disregarded the welfare and property of others by destroying fuel tanks, which help provide access to Pagan, as well as destroying the windshield of a 1990 Daihatsu Jeep.

Naraja said that Castro's crimes were committed because of his self-proclaimed dissatisfaction with the Commonwealth's political system.

"The brazenness of defendant's conduct is an aggravating factor, which is afforded moderate weight," the judge pointed out.

He noted that the damage done by Castro was significant and has impacted the ability of

the government and others to access Pagan.

"A person can be dissatisfied with the political situation, but resorting to destruction of property is never justified. There is a need to dissuade and deter this kind of conduct," Naraja said.

The judge said Castro's conduct occurred in the immediate aftermath of Typhoon Soudelor on Pagan, which is extremely isolated and has limited resources. He said Soudelor caused significant damage on Pagan and threatened the island's food supply.

Naraja said Castro's crimes took place during those desperate times.

The judge said the conditions of Pagan and the circumstances at the time are factors with moderate weight.

The fact that Castro and his fellow residents on Pagan were facing adversity does not excuse his crimes, Naraja said.

Castro pleaded guilty last May 2 to reckless burning and criminal mischief as part of a plea deal.

The sentencing hearing was first held last May 31, but Naraja moved it to last Tuesday.

Chief prosecutor Michele Harris had recommended a sentence of two years imprisonment, to be served day for day without the possibility of parole and probation.

Assistant public defender Tillman Clark, counsel for Castro, recommended credit for time served and Castro's release at the end of the sentencing hearing.

Castro was accused of puncturing the fuel tanks of the U.S. Geological Survey and/or Homeland Security and Emergency Management Office, and setting them on

fire, causing them to explode and burn between April 11 and 15, 2016, on Pagan.

He also smashed the front and rear windshields and windows of a 1990 Daihatsu Jeep owned by Francisco L. Kaipat.

Castro damaged the fuel tanks and radio used for communication. Former Northern Islands mayor Aldan and/or Northern Island Mayor's Office owned the property, according to court documents.

Castro also allegedly damaged the satellite dish and satellite servers of the Homeland Security Emergency Management Office.

Police arrested Castro on Pagan on May 13, 2016.

Rape suspect on house arrest pending his trial

Superior Court Presiding Judge Roberto C. Naraja granted yesterday a motion to modify the original \$100,000 cash bail imposed on a man accused of raping a friend.

Manolo Romolor's bail is now \$10,000 cash.

Naraja placed Romolor on house arrest pending the outcome of his jury trial on Oct. 10, 2017.

Naraja said Aside from the \$10,000 cash bail, the 33-year-old Romolor is not allowed to sell his car worth \$2,875 as it will be attached as a secured bond.

Naraja also approved Romolor's proposed third party custodian.

Upon posting bail, Romolor will be released from prison tomorrow, Friday, at 4pm.

Romolor will be allowed to continue to work. He can go to church on Sundays in the company of the custodian, and go jogging and play basketball at the Gilbert C. Ada Gymnasium.

He is prohibited from consuming any alcoholic beverages and from having any contact with the alleged victim and witnesses in the case, among other conditions.

Naraja noted that Romolor's friends raised the \$10,000 cash for his bail and that his employer is willing to continue his employment.

Assistant public defender Jamal Saleh, counsel for Romolor, cited that under the

Commonwealth Rules of Criminal Procedure, an accused must be released pending trial under the least restrictive conditions necessary to "reasonably assure the appearance of the person as required."

Assistant attorney general Betsy Weintraub, counsel for the government, opposed the motion, saying this is one of the rare cases where a \$100,000 cash bail is appropriate and necessary to assure the defendant's appearance at trial.

In her recommendation, Weintraub said if released on bail, Romolor has a strong incentive to flee to avoid prosecution and the means to do so.

Weintraub said the weight of the evidence against Romolor is substantial.

She said if the defendant flees to the Philippines, the current political situation in that country could make extradition extremely difficult and could take years.

Romolor has been in detention for almost eight months now.

The Office of the Attorney General charged him with sexual assault in the first degree, assault and battery, and disturbing the peace, for allegedly raping a drunk friend who was asleep after a party at an apartment in Gualo Rai on Nov. 19, 2016.

Romolor pleaded not guilty. *(Ferdie de la Torre)*

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SUMMER PROGRAM

Participants in the Joeten-Kiyu Public Library's 11th Annual Collaborative Summer Library Program check out the items for show brought by the CNMI Division of Fish and Wildlife.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO



CUC gets \$4.518M to power wells with emergency gensets

By BEA CABRERA
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REPORTER

The Federal Emergency Management Agency has awarded the Commonwealth \$4,518,008 so it can install generators that will power its water well in times of emergencies.

In a statement, Gov. Ralph DLG Torres said the project will better prepare the islands in times of disasters and emergencies and further the goals of the Commonwealth Utilities Corp. to provide reliable water service.

"When Typhoon Soudelor hit, water service was cut off for the entire island because there was no electricity to power the pumps. FEMA and the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers had to place generators in certain wells just to supply adequate water for our community," Torres said.

CUC deputy executive director William Gilmore said that FEMA has been very good for the CNMI and CUC in the wake of Typhoon Soudelor.

"In anticipation of any future problems, FEMA had resolved to provide funding that will help support a problem that existed during Soudelor. We did not have adequate coverage and back up generators to supply power to our well fields so that we could keep water on island. The reverse osmosis system, which is a water purification technology, had to be provided by the military temporarily in several locations."

"So the intent here is to... provid[e] pad-mounted generators that has back-up power supply for a certain

amount of time that allows us to continue to provide water during an emergency," Gilmore added.

The project will result in the installation of 12 pad-mounted generators at strategic sites to provide emergency back-up power to 91 water wells on Saipan. It includes seven new concrete structures and two hardened buildings to house the new generators and electrical switchgear. It will also install wind-resistant concrete poles with new power transformers.

To ensure the reliability of the power supply to the wells, electric lines will be moved from overhead to underground.

Gilmore said the intent of the award is a preventive measure. "We appreciate FEMA's funding strategy because it really is a smart approach in maintaining our well fields during those critical times."

"Our job is to make sure that the wells are in working order so at the time when it is needed, it automatically switches over and we can withdraw that power supply. All the budget will go to that. I assume that installation is going to happen in three to four months," Gilmore added.

Part of FEMA's requirement in maintaining the generators are sufficient fuel supply and efficient delivery.

"One of the requirements that FEMA has asked for is...a consistent delivery schedule...so that the power supply will always be running. That's part of the obligation that comes with this FEMA [grant]," Gilmore said.

Power outage on Isa Drive on Saturday

There will be a scheduled power interruption along Isa Drive in San Vicente on Saturday, July 15, 2017, from 5:30am to 10:30am.

The affected areas are Kahida PI., Laulau Bay Drive, Achon Ln., Railroad Dr., Sinagu Ln., Tininu PI., Galak Dr., Makong PI., Pacific Heights Ln., Boya PI., Galayan PI., Mulberry Ln., Lantana PI., Palai Way, Magpa Ln., Langit Ln., Berbena Dr., Pakko Ln., Golondrina Dr., Nifen Ln., and Tangan Tangan Dr.

The purpose of the power outage is to de-energize the primary lines to allow Commonwealth Utilities Corp. line crew to safely replace four wooden power poles

with concrete poles.

This is part of an ongoing hazard mitigation project of the Federal Emergency Management Agency to strengthen and harden the integrity of the power distribution system throughout Saipan.

Due to the scale of work to be performed, CUC asks travelers to take alternate routes or to exercise caution when driving through affected areas.

For more information, contact the CUC Customer Call Center (664-4282) or monitor its Facebook page for latest updates (<https://www.facebook.com/CommonwealthUtilitiesCorporation>) (PR)

33rd ANNUAL SAIPAN INTERNATIONAL FISHING TOURNAMENT
July 15 & 16, 2017
Awards Banquet 6:00 p.m. at PIC on Monday, July 17, 2017

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For more information, contact Ray Villagomez at 664-3200

COMMUNITY BRIEFS**2 Saipan beaches red-flagged**

The Division of Environmental Quality has red-flagged the Department of Public Works channel bridge and American Memorial Park and is advising the public not to fish or swim within 300 feet of these locations for the next 48 hours or until otherwise notified. Samples collected from these locations contained excessive concentrations of fecal indicator bacteria (enterococci) that exceeded the CNMI Marine Water Quality Standards. These bacteria can indicate the presence of human and animal waste in the water. For more information, contact DEQ at 664-8500. **(DEQ)**

CCA support meeting today

All people facing cancer, their family members, and caregivers are invited to the Commonwealth Cancer Association support meeting today, July 13, starting at 5:30pm at the Hyatt Regency Saipan's Chamolinian Room. To RSVP or for more information, call the CCA at 682-0050 or email at ccamarianas@gmail.com or cca@ccamarianas.org. **(PR)**

Youth fishing derby on Rota on July 23

The Rota Mayor's Office will be hosting a youth fishing derby at the Teteto Beach on Sunday, July 23, from 9am to 4pm. Interested participants must fill out application forms at the Rota Mayor's Office. Participants must be ages 5 to 8 and 9 to 12. There will be an orientation at the Teteto Pavilion on Sunday, July 23, at 8:30am. Cash prizes will be given to the participant who collects the most number of fish. Prizes are \$75 for first place, \$50 for second place, and \$25 for

third place. **(MVA)**

MyPROS to host July 22 gala

The Marianas Young Professionals will host a White Beach Gala at the Surf Club on July 22. Tickets can be purchased from any Events Committee member. Tickets previously bought are still honored for the new date. For more information, check out MYPros Facebook page at facebook.com/mypros670/. **(PR)**

Ongoing gambling survey

The Substance Abuse & Rehabilitation Program is conducting a "Gambling Survey" to gather baseline data in order to help determine if a further comprehensive screening tool or assessment is needed in regards to gambling in the CNMI. An online version of the survey can be taken at: <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/FDKXYNH>. The last day to complete the online survey is this Saturday, July 15, 2017. The community is highly encouraged to take the survey. For more information, contact Shawnalei Ogumoro of the SAR Program at (670) 323-7277 or email at shawnalei.ogumoro@gov.mp. **(PR)**

PH consular outreach on Saipan

A team from the Philippine Consulate General in Agana, Guam, is on Saipan until July 13 at the Pedro P. Tenorio Multi-Purpose Center in Susupe for biometrics capturing of e-passport applications. All e-passport applications require "personal appearance." Wear proper attire (shirt with collar). For more information and confirmation, call (670) 233-6293 and ask for Mel Santos. To verify if you are on the list, go to <https://www.facebook.com/PCGAgana/>. **(PR)**

CAMPUS BRIEFS**Registration at Francisco M. Sablan Middle School**

The Francisco M. Sablan Middle School is reminding that all students, new and returning, must register for school year 2017-2018.

Returning students must submit a registration form, medical clearance (blue card), and student insurance.

In addition to the three requirements, new students must submit their birth certificate, copy of last report card from the previous school year, transfer out form (if applicable), and map of residence.

The Francisco M. Sablan Middle School school zone is south of DPA Car Mart to Kolblerville (south of St. Jude Church) and includes the As Gonno area.

All registration forms must be submitted at the office. Upon submission, the office staff will provide free meal applications.

The school supplies lists are available at National Office, Modern Stationary, and at FMS Middle School. **(PR)**

WSR now accepting registrations

William S. Reyes Elementary School is now accepting registration for new and returning students for school year 2017-2018. Parents and guardians will need the following documents: updated health certificate, updated student insurance/Medicaid, birth certificate (new students), legal guardianship documents (if applicable/must be issued by a U.S. court system; affidavit and power of attorney do not apply). If legal guardianship documents were issued by a foreign court system, all documents must be translated and certified through a U.S. court system. Visit the school to register. Contact the school at 664-3972 or 237-3542. **(PR)**

GMS registration

Green Meadow School is now accepting registration for new and returning students for first to eighth grade for school year 2017-2018.

Visit the GMS business office in Chalan Kiya or Gualo Rai and pick up the registration form. We are also opening registration for first grade at the Gualo Rai branch. For inquiries call 235-2185, 233-6452 or 483-6452. **(PR)**

OES now accepting registrations

Oleai Elementary School is now accepting registration for new and returning students for school year 2017-2018. Parents and guardians of returning students are also asked to update registration and all supporting documents. Registration forms are available at our main office. For more information or inquiry, call our main office at 664-3942. **(PR)**

MHS registration ongoing

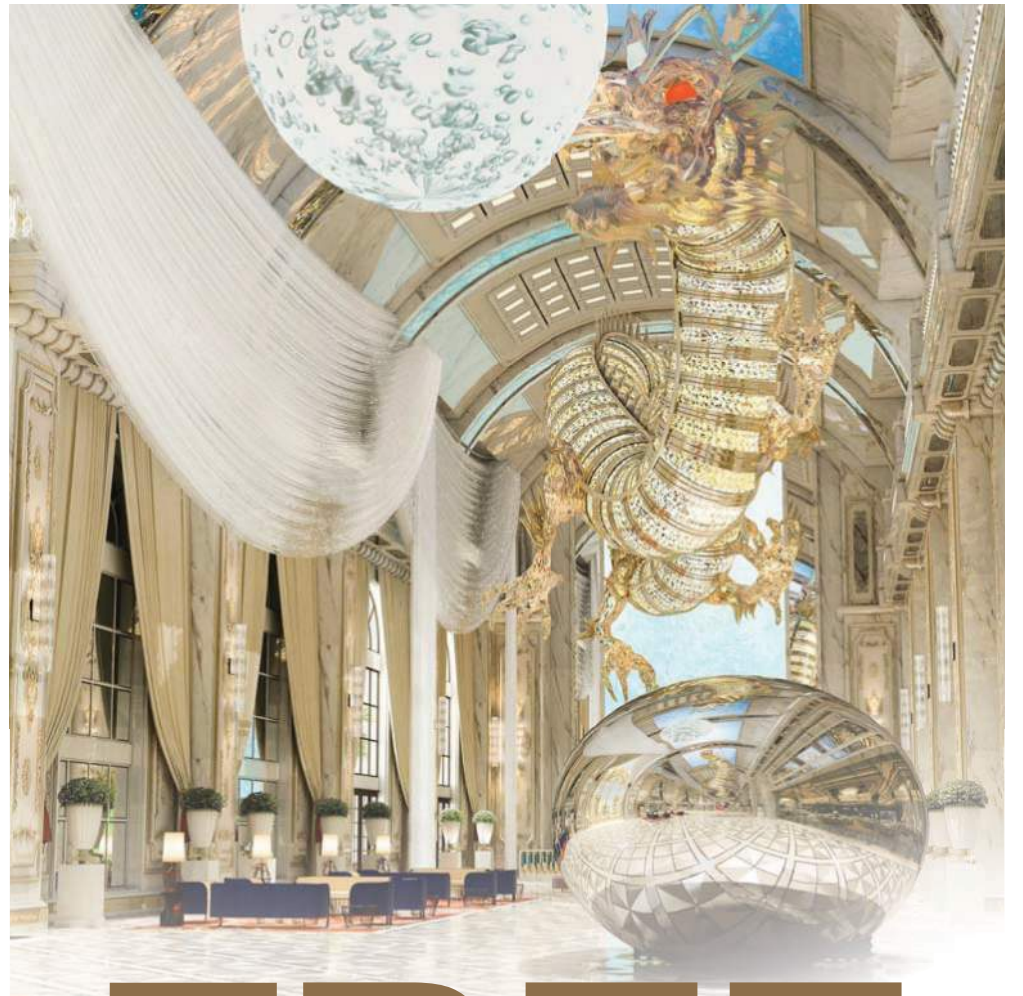
Registration for new incoming and returning students for Marianas High School is ongoing until July 31, 2017. Copies of all required documents must be attached before your child can be registered. Call 664-3800/01 or visit www.marianashighschool.com for more information. **(PR)**

SSHS registration

Saipan Southern High School is now accepting registration for new and returning students for school year 2017-2018. Come to our main office and pick up registration forms. All requirements must be turned in. Call 664-4000/2 for any other information. **(PR)**

KHS registration

Kagman High School is accepting registrations all summer. It is ideal to get your registration submitted ASAP to get your child scheduled in the optimum classes they need to graduate! So far we have received less than 150 registrations from returning students. We have also received very few registration forms from incoming freshmen! Please don't delay, register your child for school today. Registration can be printed from <https://goo.gl/x2KvcL>. **(PR)**



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USVI gets \$250,000 to develop a new CPI

WASHINGTON, D.C.—The Department of the Interior's Office of Insular Affairs has awarded the U.S. Virgin Islands a \$250,000 grant for the development and imple-

mentation of a 2017 Consumer Price Index.

Interior Secretary Ryan Zinke presented the grant award to U.S. Virgin Islands Gov. Kenneth E. Mapp during their

meeting at Interior headquarters on Monday.

Zinke previously met with Mapp during the USVI centennial in March.

"The new CPI will be

based on a new 2016 Household Income and Expenditure Survey," said acting assistant secretary for Insular Areas Nikolao Pula. "The major focus of the project is to provide current data on consumer expenditures in the U.S. Virgin Islands, congruent with national standards. This is critical in order to better assess and evaluate price trends in various sectors of the economy and prospects for economic growth and development."

The activities funded by the grant will focus on three objectives: 1) to establish a new market basket of goods and services and new item weights; 2) to provide training and technical support for field enumerators in the price collection process; and 3) to conduct data processing activities to achieve the goal of a current CPI that reflects changing consumer behavior and trends.

Interior's Office of Insular Affairs provides Technical Assistance Program grants for short-term, non-capital projects and are not meant to supplant local funding of routine operating expenses of an island government. TAP priorities include but are not limited to projects that foster develop-



U.S. Virgin Islands Gov. Kenneth E. Mapp and U.S. Secretary of the Interior Ryan Zinke on July 10, 2017. CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

ment of the insular areas in the following areas: accountability, financial management, economic development, education, energy, management control initiatives, disaster assistance, natural and cultural resources, capacity building, public safety/emergencies, health, and invasive species management.

Funding for the TAP program under CFDA 15.875

at <https://www.grants.gov/> is available to any of the four U.S. territories of the U.S. Virgin Islands, American Samoa, Guam, and the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands as well as to the three freely associated states of the Federated States of Micronesia, the Marshall Islands, and Palau. This funding is appropriated annually by the U.S. Congress. (DOI)

Xiao Mei Su graduates from SUNY New Paltz

NEW PALTZ, NY—Xiao Mei Su of Saipan was one of more than 1,200 undergraduate students who earned their degrees during the spring 2017 semester at SUNY New Paltz. Go online for complete coverage of commencement 2017.

Located in the heart of a

college town, 90 minutes from metropolitan New York City, the State University of New York at New Paltz is a college of about 8,000 undergraduate and graduate students.

One of the most well-regarded public colleges in the nation, New Paltz offers majors in Business, Liberal

Arts & Sciences, Engineering, Fine & Performing Arts, and Education.

New Paltz embraces its culture as a community where talented and independent minded people from around the world create close personal links with real scholars and artists who love to teach. (PR)



Commonwealth Zoning Board Meeting Agenda

Thursday, July 20, 2017

5:00 PM, Zoning Board Conference Room

Tel: 234-9661 • Fax: 234-9666 • www.zoning.gov.mp

A. Preliminary Matters

1. Call to Order
2. Roll Call
3. Adoption of Agenda
4. Adoption of 5/17/2017 meeting minutes
5. Public Comments (not related to files for discussion under item B. Public Hearings)

B. Public Hearings:

1. Conditional Use Application #2017-1568: Unity Sense (CNMI), LLC dba Heaven II Hotel is proposing to occupy four existing structures to operate a hotel. This use is classified as "Hotel" and is permitted in the district as a Conditional Use. This project is located on Tract No. 22667-2-R1 in Capitol Hill. This area is zoned as Rural.a
2. Conditional Use Application #2017-1686: Seatimes Company Ltd. is proposing to occupy two existing buildings to operate a Bed and Breakfast. This use is classified as "Bed and Breakfast" and is permitted in the district as a Conditional Use. This project is located on Lot No. 128 D 24 in Garapan. This area is zoned as Village Residential.
3. Conditional Use Application #2017-2486: Fortune Pacific Corporation is proposing to operate an Amusement, Outdoor Use (Para-Gliding). This use is classified as "Amusement, Outdoor" and is permitted in the district as a Conditional Use. This project is located on Lot No. 056 C 116 in Marpi. This area is zoned as Rural.

C. Communication

D. Old Business

E. New Business

1. Operations Reports (Permitting & Enforcement)

F. Executive (Closed) Session

G. Miscellaneous

- a. Other Matters
- b. Announcements
- c. Next Meeting

H. Adjourn



NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING for Fortune Pacific Corporation

The Public is invited to attend and provide comments at a Zoning Board public hearing on this request for Conditional Use Permit. Fortune Pacific Corporation is proposing to operate an Amusement, Outdoor Use (Para-Gliding). This use is classified as "Amusement, Outdoor" and is permitted in the district as a Conditional Use. This project is located on Lot No. 056 C 116 in San Juan, Marpi. This area is zoned as Rural.

Date: July 20, 2017
Time: 5:00 pm
Place: Zoning Board Conference Room
2nd Floor, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building

Comments on the proposal may be submitted orally or in writing at the public hearing. Written comments may be submitted directly to the Zoning Office before 4:30 pm, July 19, 2017. Please send written comments via e-mail to Therese.Ogumoro@zoning.gov.mp, via US mail to Caller Box 10007, Saipan, MP 96950, or deliver them to the Zoning Office, 2nd floor, Joeten Building, Dandan, Saipan.

For questions or access to materials to be considered at the public hearing, or if you require assistance, please call 234-9661. This notice is provided pursuant to Public Law 6-32, as amended (2 CMC 7201, et seq.) and the Saipan Zoning Law of 2013.

/s/ Diego C. Blanco, Chairman



NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING for Unity Sense (CNMI), LLC dba Heaven II Hotel

The Public is invited to attend and provide comments at a Zoning Board public hearing on this request for Conditional Use Permit. Unity Sense (CNMI), LLC dba Heaven II Hotel is proposing to occupy four existing structures to operate a hotel. This use is classified as "Hotel" and is permitted in the district as a Conditional Use. This project is located on Tract No. 22667-2-R1 in Capitol Hill. This area is zoned as Rural.

Date: July 20, 2017
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/s/ Diego C. Blanco, Chairman



NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING for Seatimes Company Ltd.

The Public is invited to attend and provide comments at a Zoning Board public hearing on this request for Conditional Use Permit. Seatimes Company Ltd. is proposing to occupy two existing buildings to operate a Bed and Breakfast. This use is classified as "Bed and Breakfast" and is permitted in the district as a Conditional Use. This project is located on Lot No. 128 D 24 in Garapan. This area is zoned as Village Residential.

Date: July 20, 2017
Time: 5:00 pm
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2nd Floor, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building

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For questions or access to materials to be considered at the public hearing, or if you require assistance, please call 234-9661. This notice is provided pursuant to Public Law 6-32, as amended (2 CMC 7201, et seq.) and the Saipan Zoning Law of 2013.

/s/ Diego C. Blanco, Chairman

Kilili: \$4.5M more for Soudelor recovery

WASHINGTON, D.C.— Delegate Gregorio Kilili C. Sablan (Ind-MP) announced yesterday that the Commonwealth is receiving \$4,518,008 more in federal funds as part of the Typhoon Soudelor recovery effort.

The money will be used to install 12 generators to provide emergency back-up power to 91 wells and keep water service available to all villages on Saipan after a storm.

"Congress provides these hazard mitigation grants to areas that have suffered through natural disasters in order to harden public infrastructure and make it more resilient in the event of future disasters," Sablan said. "One of the worst

effects of a storm like Soudelor is that people do not have water for cooking and cleaning and the basic needs of life. The funding now available will help ensure that the Commonwealth Utilities Corp. is more able to keep delivering water even after a terrible storm."

According to details of the grant agreement from the Federal Emergency Management Agency, two existing buildings will be strengthened to house some of the new generators and their electrical switchgear. The rest of the generators will be protected within seven entirely new concrete structures.

In addition, wind-resistant concrete poles with power

transformers will go up to carry power from the emergency generators to the wells. And at six sites that provide power to especially high-producing wells the necessary electric lines will be moved underground to further ensure the reliability of the power supply.

"For the 14,406 households served by these wells," said Sablan, "this infusion of federal funding could make a tremendous improvement, if we are struck by a Soudelor-sized storm again."

FEMA distributes the hazard mitigation funds directly to the Commonwealth government, which is then responsible for allocating the money to CUC. (PR)

33RD SAIPAN INTERNATIONAL FISHING TOURNAMENT MINA to host marine debris contest

The Micronesia Islands Nature Alliance will again conduct a marine debris raffle draw at the 33rd Saipan International Fishing Tournament slated for this weekend, July 15 and 16. The prize is \$500 in Joeten gift certificates, for one winner.

Eligible participants must find at least one piece of trash, which is man-made, found in the ocean, and collected while they are fishing in the derby. Any floating marine debris, such as plas-



tic, qualifies. The trash will have to be turned in to the MINA booth upon docking to receive a raffle ticket. Raffle tickets are limited to one for each individual qualifying fisherman who turns in marine debris, and is open

to registered participants of the fishing derby. The drawing will be held at the awards banquet, and ticket holders must be present to win.

For more information, email MINA at minaoutreach@gmail.com or call 233-REEF. (PR)



Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands Statewide Independent Living Council "Yes I Can!"

P.O. Box 501521, SAIPAN, MP 96950 • Tel: (670) 322-6537/8 • Fax: (670) 322-6548
TTY: (670) 322-6449 • E-Mail: nmdir@ovrgov.net

PUBLIC NOTICE

Pursuant to 1 CMC §9910, the public is advised that the Statewide Independent Living Council will hold its FY 2017 Second General Membership Meeting on Thursday, July 20, 2017 at Aqua Resort Club-Taga Room from 10:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.

Interested individuals are welcome to attend.

AGENDA

- I. Call to Order
- II. Roll Call
- III. Review and Adoption of Agenda of July 20, 2017
- IV. Review and Adoption of FY 2017 First General Membership Meeting Minutes of March 2, 2017
- V. Reports
 - a. Statewide Independent Living Council Chairperson
 - b. Center for Living Independently Executive Director
 - c. Office of Vocational Rehabilitation Director
- VI. Old Business
 - a. SPIL Implementation Report Update
- VII. New Business
 - a. National Conference on Independent Living
 - b. IL Services Grant Award Notification
- VIII. Announcement/Miscellaneous
 - a. Wheelchair Clinic
 - b. Transition Conference
 - c. Developmental Disabilities and Employment Awareness Month
- IX. Next Meeting
- X. Adjournment

In compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA), individuals who wish to attend the meeting but require accommodation such as large print or sign language interpreter are asked to call Ms. Elvira Seman (OVR Administrative Assistant) at 322-6537/38 (voice) or 322-6449 (TTY) five days before the meeting for necessary arrangements.

/s/ **Emeterio Fitial**
SILC Chairperson

Publication of this notice is paid for by Federal funds made possible by a grant from the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS), Administration for Community Living (ACL).



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Opinion

Hafa Adai!

Saipan Tribune

THE CNMI'S FIRST DAILY NEWSPAPER
Volume XXVII, Issue No. 138Published daily at 2/F JP Center,
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MEMBER

AP The Associated Press

Pacific Islands News Association

EDITORIAL

Dose of optimism: June's jobs report is brighter than expected

Accompanied by the customary cautionary note about analysis based on one month's figures, June's job creation rate, provided by the U.S. Department of Labor, should have provided Americans with a shaft of light Friday.

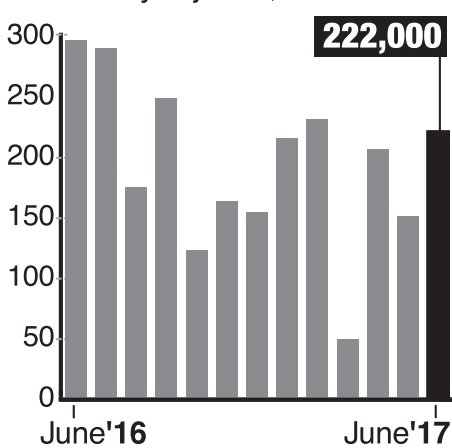
June produced a better-than-expected 222,000 new jobs, supplemented by an adjustment upward of 47,000 of April and May figures. Unemployment rose a tick, to 4.4 percent from 4.3 percent, but that is still low. Average hourly wages were up 2.5 percent from a year ago. Labor-force participation rose slightly, to 62.8 percent from 62.7 percent, even as some employers complained of difficulty in filling jobs. Inflation, a key factor for poor and middle-class people in the face of generally stagnant wages, remains under 2 percent.

Although it is too early to claim a "Trump bump" upward in the economy, June's figures, coupled with a robust stock market, should be seen as positive and cause for hope.

There are still shoes waiting to drop and a considerable number of issues with unknown or potentially negative

Jobs added

Seasonally adjusted, in thousands

Source: Bureau of Labor Statistics
Graphic: Tribune News Service

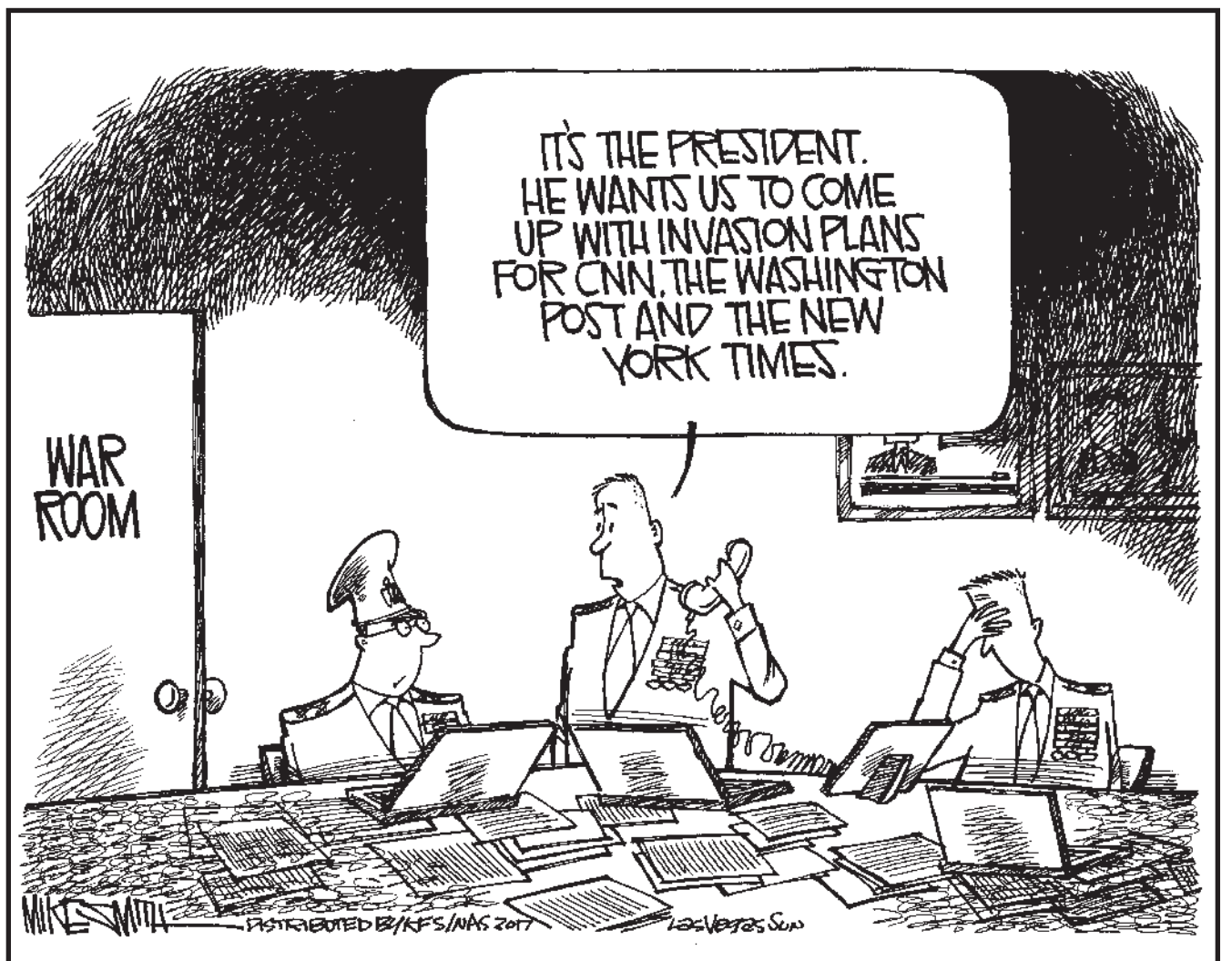
\$20 trillion will be contentious. The direction America will go on health care remains tortuously tangled.

Tax reform is somewhere over the rainbow. The promised job-creating infrastructure bill is nowhere in sight.

Also on the negative side is a slowdown in auto sales and the fact that the spurt in new jobs seems to have resulted partly from growth in public-sector employment rather than in the manufacturing and retail sectors generally watched for signs of economic health. The long-term employment impact of Trump's policies on immigration and American participation in international trade pacts has yet to become visible.

All in all, however, the job figures released on July 7 look good. Americans need some good news right now.

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Once again, Trump at his best abroad

President Donald Trump's just-concluded foreign trip was remarkable for what it confirmed about the controversial and complex 71-year-old rookie politician: When Trump goes abroad, he becomes a real president.

His remarkable Warsaw speech, delivered by a statesman of stature who has an American heart but speaks of universal ideals, was ostensibly to the people of Poland. But the words, with echoes of John Kennedy and Ronald Reagan, resonated with many elsewhere. This was also the case with his thoughtful speech to dozens of Muslim leaders in Riyadh in May, which seemed to rally the voices of reason within that Sundered faith.

Too often we forget that Trump's human instincts are usually good. When he returned from Europe on Saturday, his helicopter's wash blew the hat off a Marine guard standing at strict attention to greet him. It was the commander-in-chief himself who chased and retrieved the hat.

Trump's critics, of whom there are many, seem eagerly incapable of perceiving the contradictory complexities of a president they bitterly resent for snatching away what they saw as Hillary Clinton's rightful political inheritance.

They seem to reflexively relish each negative incident, even inventing some and willfully misinterpreting others, as validation of their narrow-minded bitterness.

That's dangerously unproductive politically in the long term. Because no matter their political leanings, most Americans know in their honest hearts that others are not simply good or evil.

The stark media caricatures of today's public figures, especially Trump, play to stereotypes that may make for late-night laughs. But they skew our collective judgments if we allow them to be more than that. Those laugh lines weren't true about stupid George W. Bush and arrogant Barack Obama either.

According to the political calendar, we have at least 184 more weeks with this duly-elected chief executive. As we do within our own families, we as a people need to at least understand, if not condone, his human failings, as egregious as they may sometimes seem. And we must also remain open to the positives.

Did you notice the dearth of dumb Trump tweets during this last week? For some reason, Trump, once home, often succumbs to immature impulses, mainly through compulsive tweets, handing critics apt ammo to mock and deride. A pride. A defensiveness. Even a meanness. Overseas, he acts bigger and stays busy being, well, president.

Trump also reveals this geographic dichotomy through his oratory. In his inaugural address from Capitol Hill to his base,

By **ANDREW MALCOLM**

Special to McClatchy

Andrew Malcolm is an author and veteran national and foreign correspondent covering politics since the 1960s. Follow him @AHMalcolm.



Trump uttered angry things like:

"For many decades, we've enriched foreign industry at the expense of American industry; Subsidized the armies of other countries while allowing for the very sad depletion of our military; We've defended other nation's borders while refusing to defend our own; ... We've made other countries rich while the wealth, strength and confidence of our country has disappeared over the horizon. From this moment on, it's going to be America First."

Less than six months later and 4,500 miles away before a massive crowd in an historic Warsaw square, the same man spoke as a free world leader with words like:

"We must work together to confront forces, whether they come from inside or out, from the South or the East, that threaten over time to undermine these values and to erase the bonds of culture, faith and tradition that make us who we are."

"If left unchecked, these forces will undermine our courage, sap our spirit, and weaken our will to defend ourselves and our societies ..."

"Our own fight for the West does not begin on the battlefield—it begins with our minds, our wills, and our souls. Today, the ties that unite our civilizations are no less vital, and demand no less defense, than that bare shred of land on which the hope of Poland once totally rested."

"Our freedom, our civilization, and our survival depend on these bonds of history, culture and memory."

Some in that crowd endured the Nazi blitzkrieg, occupation and Holocaust, the Warsaw Uprising and decades of Soviet Communist oppression, all within 78 years.

Several times, that crowd interrupted the U.S. president, chanting, "Donald Trump! Donald Trump! Donald Trump!"

As a modern nation that has not endured anything even close to such awful times, we should probably ensure that we not allow our own stubbornly held petty political proclivities to blind us to the possibilities that others see so clearly.

EDITORIAL POLICY

Letters to the editor must include the NAME, VILLAGE ADDRESS, and CONTACT NUMBER of the contributor. Letters that do not have these information will immediately be trashed. Contributions consisting of 500 words or less have more chances of getting published. The *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to publish a contribution or not; the right to edit submissions for length, accuracy, and clarity; and the right to publish and distribute contributions in print, electronic, or other media formats. Submissions may be sent via snail mail to the 2nd Floor, JP Center, Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan, 96950; fax (670) 235-3740; e-mail to editor@saipantribune.com; or through our website at www.saipantribune.com.

Managing debt

THE CONSUMER CAUTION CORNER

By MICHAEL J. CYGANEK

CONSUMER COUNSEL, OFFICE OF THE ATTORNEY GENERAL

This week, the Office of the Attorney General's "Consumer Caution Corner" outlines the Federal Trade Commission's guidance on how to manage debt.

If you owe money you cannot repay, you need a plan. Do not ignore the problem. There are people who can help you.

Where do I start?

- *Step #1: Make a budget.*
 - Write down what you make and spend in a month
 - Look at where your money goes
 - Look for ways to save money
- *Step #2: Call the companies where you owe money.*
 - Explain why you have trouble paying the bill
 - Ask for a plan to let you pay less each month
- *Step #3: Get help from a credit counselor.*

How can I get help?

Look for a credit counselor who will meet you in-person. Then ask questions. These questions will help you select a counselor:

- What can you do to help me?
- How much will I have to pay?

- Do you have free education and information?
- Are you licensed to work in my territory and/or state?

Look for a credit counselor who can do the most for you. You might have to pay some money for help. But a good credit counselor will not ask you to pay in advance.

What do I do about calls from debt collectors?

- *When you talk to a debt collector:*
 - Keep a notebook by your phone or with you.
 - Ask: What is your name, company, address, and phone number? Write the answers. Write the date and time you talked.
 - Say: I will only talk when I get the written validation notice.
 - If the collector threatens you or uses bad language, hang up. He or she is breaking the law.
 - You can file a complaint about a debt collector by calling the Federal Trade Commission at 1-877-382-4357.
- *When you get the validation notice:*
 - See if you recognize the debt. The notice should list the "creditor." The creditor is the person you owe money to. You can call the creditor to get more information.
 - If you do not think the debt is yours, follow the instructions in the notice. It should tell you what to do next to question the debt.
 - If the debt is yours, make a plan for how to pay it. Talk to a credit counselor.

■ *If you want the collector to stop calling:*

- Write a letter to the debt collector. Tell him or her to stop calling you immediately. Send the letter by Certified Mail and ask for a "return receipt." The law says he or she must stop calling you when he or she gets your request in writing.
- If that debt collector still calls, file a complaint. Call the Federal Trade Commission at 1-877-382-4357.

Each week, the OAG's Consumer Protection Education Program (a.k.a. "The Consumer Caution Corner") shares FTC and/or Federal Communications Commission publications that provide consumers and businesses with the "know-how" to identify and protect themselves from unfair trade practices and marketplace schemes. If you would like to file a consumer complaint, please pick up a form at the OAG (on Capital Hill) or request one by email from consumer_counsel@cnmioag.org. After completing the consumer complaint, please submit it by email or in-person.

We cannot act as your private attorney. If you need legal assistance, we will recommend that you contact a private attorney or legal aid organization. We cannot give legal advice or act as your private attorney.

Michael J. Cyganek is consumer counsel at the Office of the Attorney General.

Trump can topple national monuments

By TODD GAZIANO and JOHN YOO

LOS ANGELES TIMES

Suppose President Donald Trump declared much of California, Nevada and Oregon—states that just happened to vote against him—off-limits to economic development and recreational use. Suppose he barred all mining, grazing, agriculture and even camping from these states' federal lands (roughly 46 percent of California, 85 percent of Nevada and 53 percent of Oregon) under a law to preserve national monuments of scientific and historical interest.

According to some environmentalists and legal scholars, we would have to live with this result. They believe a president can permanently designate federal land as a monument and restrict its uses—even if we're talking about millions of acres (138 million acres in the example above), far removed from any real historical or scientific significance, and over the objections of the states involved.

But a presidential power to create permanent national monuments flies in the face of the plain text of federal law, the conventional relationship between presidents and Congress and historical understandings of executive power. Trump has the right to reverse the national monuments created by previous presidents without an act of Congress, but by the same token, the Constitution creates a check by allowing future presidents to reverse Trump too.

In late April, Trump announced a plan to reconsider the size of recently designated national monuments, principally those that withdrew vast amounts of land in the West, and in the oceans near Hawaii and New England, from some forms of economic development. His orders sparked a firestorm of criticism from environmentalists and sympathetic public officials who argue that Trump cannot undo a national monument once declared by a past president.

The power to create national monuments derives from the Antiquities Act of 1906. It's a broad presidential power, although

monuments must be limited to the smallest area necessary to preserve landmarks and other objects of interest. Like many federal laws, the Antiquities Act delegates authority to the executive branch but does not address how to undo the use of the power. Those who defend permanent, unchangeable national monuments argue that the act's silence on reversal means reversal is impossible. But there is no reason to believe that the Antiquities Act can uniquely evade the fundamental principles that apply throughout our government and laws.

Almost every grant of power, by Constitution or statute, implicitly also includes the power of reversal. Congress has no express authority in the Constitution to repeal a law, but it does so by passing new laws. The Supreme Court doesn't have express authority to overrule a past precedent, but it does so in a later decision. As the federal courts have recognized, the president can fire Cabinet officers or abrogate treaties (both of which require Senate advice and consent), even though the Constitution doesn't mention it. No Congress, Supreme Court or president can bind their successors from using their branch's constitutional powers.

The courts have applied the same legal principle of reversal when Congress delegates lawmaking power to the executive branch. For example, agencies granted authority to issue regulations also can revoke or modify them, and presidents often repeal executive orders, many of which are based on statutory powers. The courts have never held that this underlying statutory authority once used cannot be revoked.

Indeed, those who claim that the Antiquities Act does not grant a reversal power cannot find a single case in another area of federal law that supports that contention. To override the norm, legislators have to clearly limit reversal powers in the original law; the plain text of the Antiquities Act includes no such limits.

Those who consider monument proclamations sacrosanct place most of their hopes in a cursory legal opinion issued by U.S. Attorney General Homer Cummings in 1938. No court has

ever approved of the Cummings opinion. Our research explains the many holes in its reasoning, including Cummings' mistaken reliance on an 1862 attorney general opinion that interpreted a different law, with utterly different facts, and, in any case, reached a conclusion contrary to Cummings' position.

In a letter to the Interior Department, California Attorney General Xavier Becerra asserts that Trump cannot legally revoke or reduce six national monuments in California. Besides his reliance on Cummings' flawed opinion, Becerra's statutory citations don't help his case. He primarily cites ambiguous comments made in House committee deliberations related to the Federal Land Policy and Management Act of 1976. But that is a separate statute, on a different subject, that did not alter the text or plain meaning of the Antiquities Act. If that's the best that California officials have on their side in this debate, they should lose.

Those who want to maintain national monuments without change should focus on the merits of the designations rather than magical legal thinking. No president is likely to significantly disturb a national monument that enjoys strong local support. The public comment period for land-based monuments, including all those in California identified for review, is open until July 10. Comments on marine monuments under review are due by July 26.

Prior presidents acted unilaterally to create or vastly expand several national monuments. It's simply unrealistic to pretend that acts created by unilateral presidential decrees cannot be undone in the same manner.

Todd Gaziano is the executive director of the Pacific Legal Foundation's D.C. Center and its senior fellow in constitutional law. John Yoo is a law professor at the University of California at Berkeley and a visiting scholar at the American Enterprise Institute. They are the authors of an AEI paper on monuments law and wrote this for the Los Angeles Times.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

50-mile exclusion zone

This is the fourth in a series of letters about the Trump administration efforts to overturn marine monuments in the Pacific, particularly the Mariana Trench Marine National Monument. In this letter I will continue to discuss commercial fishing.

The pace of developing the monument and approving the management plan has been frustrating for everyone on this island, particularly those of us who advocated for the monument. When people point fingers at us for the failures of the federal government to do their job, we feel more anger and resentment than anyone else.

The monument has potential, though. There are many examples of places where monuments are working, where communities are being engaged, cultures are being nourished, and ecosystems are being protected. I would like to see that happen here, and have thought for more than 10 years that the best way to do this is with the NOAA Office of Marine National Sanctuaries. We laid the reasons why in our vision statement, which we published in this newspaper in October 2008 and posted online on numerous blogs.

If the monument is overturned, the potential for making the ocean great again goes away and we are left with nothing. At the same time, even if Trump were to overturn the monument, commercial fishing would not be allowed in the Islands Unit because NOAA rules do not allow commercial longline vessels within

50 miles from shore. Purse seines are banned out to 200 miles.






Overturning the monument is a lose-lose. We would lose any potential benefits from the monument, and hopefully a sanctuary. And fishermen wouldn't suddenly have a new place to fish, because fishing would still be banned!

What we'd rather see is for Gov. Torres to use his influence with President Trump to demand that the promises made by the Bush administration are delivered immediately. A great way to start would be to begin the sanctuary process, so that our community could begin engaging on how best to manage the federal marine resources surrounding our islands.

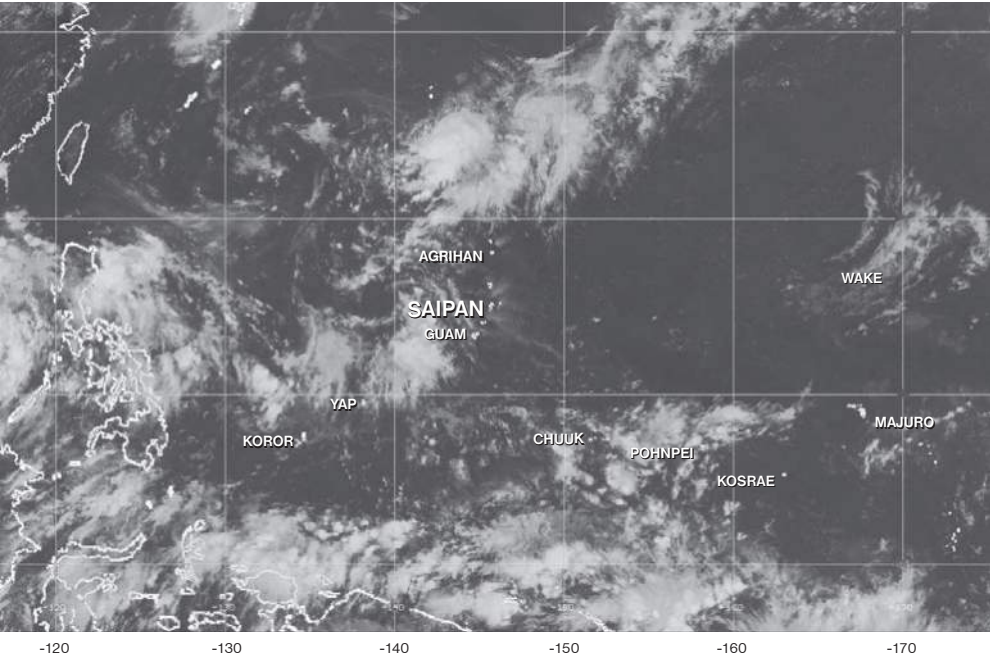
Ignacio V. Cabrera*/ Agag, Saipan*

The Weather

5-DAY FORECAST FOR SAIPAN AND TINIAN

TODAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY	SUNDAY	MONDAY
 Partly cloudy with isolated showers. East winds 10 to 15 mph.	 Partly cloudy with isolated showers.	 Partly cloudy with isolated showers.	 Partly cloudy with isolated showers.	 Partly cloudy with isolated showers.
▲89° ▼78°	▲88° ▼78°	▲88° ▼78°	▲88° ▼78°	▲88° ▼78°

YESTERDAY'S SATELLITE IMAGE



PICTURE TIME: 6:15 AM, WEDNESDAY, JULY 12, 2017
Western North Pacific between equator and 25N from 130E to 180.

Expect mostly sunny skies and isolated showers over the Marianas today. Little will change through the end of the week with partly cloudy skies and isolated showers are all that is expected. Deep-layer moisture will increase enough to cause mostly cloudy skies though the weekend and until at least Tuesday. Models hint that there may be periods of scattered Saturday through Tuesday. Not certain of this so left it out of the forecast for now.

Satellite image and accompanying information are provided by the National Weather Service. For an updated weather forecast, visit the National Weather Service Guam homepage: www.prh.noaa.gov/guam/

MICRONESIA			▲▼°F
Guam and Rota	Thunderstorms	87° / 79°	
Palau	Thunderstorms	84° / 76°	
Yap	Thunderstorms	86° / 79°	
Chuuk	Thunderstorms	86° / 79°	
Pohnpei	Thunderstorms	85° / 77°	
Kosrae	Thunderstorms	85° / 77°	
Majuro	Thunderstorms	84° / 80°	

AROUND THE GLOBE			▲▼°F
Auckland	Partly Cloudy	55° / 46°	
Beijing	Thunderstorms	93° / 75°	
Hong Kong	Partly Cloudy	88° / 81°	
Honolulu	Partly Cloudy	87° / 75°	
London	Partly Cloudy	73° / 57°	
Los Angeles	Sunny	85° / 67°	
Manila	Thunderstorms	90° / 79°	
Melbourne	Rain	52° / 41°	
Miami	Thunderstorms	86° / 80°	
New York	Mostly Cloudy	93° / 68°	
Osaka	Thunderstorms	88° / 75°	
Paris	Partly Cloudy	79° / 61°	
Busan	Mostly Sunny	84° / 75°	
Rome	Sunny	97° / 73°	
Salem	Mostly Sunny	94° / 75°	
San Francisco	Partly Cloudy	63° / 53°	
Seoul	Thunderstorms	88° / 75°	
Tokyo	Partly Cloudy	86° / 75°	
Washington, DC	Partly Cloudy	99° / 78°	



NMI CRIME STOPPERS

Anonymous tips can now be submitted through the following:

- Call 234-7272 (PARA) on any telephone
- *11 on any IT&E cellular phone
- Log on to the internet at www.nmicrimestoppers.net

TIDES: SAIPAN HARBOR TODAY			FEET
4:43 AM	LOW TIDE	1.07	
9:26 AM	HIGH TIDE	1.73	
4:33 PM	LOW TIDE	-0.09	
11:24 PM	HIGH TIDE	1.93	

DAY	SUNRISE	SUNSET
Today	5:53 AM	6:51 PM
Friday	5:54 AM	6:51 PM
Saturday	5:54 AM	6:51 PM
Sunday	5:54 AM	6:51 PM
Monday	5:55 AM	6:50 PM

DAY	MOONRISE	MOONSET	MOONRISE
Today	-	9:04 AM	9:51 PM
Friday	-	9:56 AM	10:33 PM
Saturday	-	10:48 AM	11:16 PM
Sunday	-	11:41 AM	11:59 PM
Monday	-	12:36 PM	-

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SUBSCRIPTION Published Monday to Friday, *Saipan Tribune* offers door-to-door on-island delivery at an annual rate of \$180. For additional subscription information, call (670) 235-8747 or 235-2769, or fax 235-3740.

ADVERTISING For inquiries contact (670) 235-2769. E-mail: sales@saipantribune.com

FLIGHT SCHEDULE AS OF JULY 6, 2017

DEPARTURES

SAIPAN-GUAM (GUM)			
UA6394	4:15am	5:05am	Daily
UA6392	8:40am	9:30am	Daily
UA6391	1:30pm	3:10pm	1, 4, 5, 7 via Rota
UA6390	2:20pm	3:10pm	2, 3, 6
UA6398	6:05pm	6:55pm	Daily
UA6396	9:50pm	10:40pm	Daily

SAIPAN-ROTA (ROP)

UA6391	1:30pm	2:05pm	1, 4, 5, 7
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ROTA (ROP)-GUAM (GUM)

UA6391	2:35pm	3:10pm	1, 4, 5, 7
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SAIPAN-SEOUL (ICN)

TW308	1:35am	5:20am	2, 3, 4
OZ626	2:20am	6:00am	1
TW308	2:35am	6:20am	6, 7
OZ626	2:50am	6:30am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7
7C3403	4:45am	8:30am	Daily
LJ652	4:45am	8:35am	1, 4, 5, 7
7C3401	4:00pm	7:45pm	Daily
ZE582	4:45pm	8:35pm	Daily

SAIPAN-BUSAN (PUS)

7C3451	3:10am	6:10am	1, 7
OZ608	3:10am	6:20am	4, 7
7C3451	4:00am	7:05am	4, 5

SAIPAN-SHANGHAI (PVG)

3U8648	5:20am	8:00am	1, 4, 5, 7
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SAIPAN-GUANGZHOU (CAN)

3U8646	4:20am	7:30am	2, 6
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SAIPAN-HANGZHOU (HGH)

JD396	7:00am	10:25am	1
JD396	4:50pm	8:15pm	4

SAIPAN-BEIJING (PEK)

MU764	1:30am	6:35am	3, 5, 7
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SAIPAN-NARITA (NRT)

DL297	4:15pm	7:00pm	Daily
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SAIPAN-MANILA (MNL)

OZ626/701	2:20am	11:05am	1 via ICN
OZ626/701	2:50am	11:05am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 via ICN
UA6394/191	4:15am	8:55am	2, 3, 6, 7 via GUM
UA6394/PR111	4:15am	9:00am	1, 2, 4, 6via GUM
UA6394/PR111	4:15am	9:15am	3, 5, 7 via GUM
PR1572	4:40am	6:45am	1, 4
UA6391/183	1:30pm	8:50pm	5 via Rota-GUM
UA6391/183	1:30pm	9:10pm	1, 4, 7 via Rota-GUM
UA6391/193	1:30pm	10:40pm	5 via Rota-GUM-ROR
UA6390/183	2:20pm	8:50pm	2 via GUM
UA6390/183	2:20pm	9:10pm	3, 6 via GUM
UA6390/193	2:20pm	10:40pm	2 via GUM-ROR

SAIPAN-HONG KONG (HKG)

HX077	2:00am	5:00am	1, 4
OZ626/721	2:20am	11:40am	1 via ICN
OZ626/721	2:50am	11:40am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 via ICN
U043	4:40am	8:10am	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 7
UA6391/159	1:30pm	9:50pm	1, 5 via Rota-GUM
UA6390/159	2:20pm	9:50pm	3, 6 via GUM

ARRIVALS

GUAM (GUM)-SAIPAN

UA6393	2:45am	3:35am	Daily
UA6395	7:15am	8:05am	Daily
UA6391	12:10pm	1:00pm	1, 4, 5, 7
UA6390	12:10pm	1:50pm	2, 3, 6 via Rota
UA6397	4:45pm	5:35pm	Daily
UA6399	8:30pm	9:20pm	Daily

GUAM (GUM)-ROTA (ROP)

UA6390	12:10pm	12:45pm	2, 3, 6
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ROTA (ROP)-SAIPAN

UA6390	1:15pm	1:50pm	2, 3, 6
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SEOUL (ICN)-SAIPAN

7C3402	9:30am	3:00pm	Daily
ZE581	10:10am	3:55pm	Daily
TW307	7:05pm	12:35am+1	1, 2, 3
OZ625	7:40pm	1:10am+1	7
TW307	8:05pm	1:35am+1	5, 6
OZ625	8:15pm	1:45am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6
7C3404	10:10pm	3:40am+1	Daily
LJ651	10:00pm	3:30am+1	3, 4, 6, 7

BUSAN (PUS)-SAIPAN

7C3452	9:00pm	2:10am+1	4
OZ607	9:05pm	1:55am+1	3, 6
7C3452	9:05pm	2:10am+1	3, 6, 7

SHANGHAI (PVG)-SAIPAN

3U8647	10:20pm	4:30am+1	3, 4, 6, 7
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GUANGZHOU (CAN)-SAIPAN

3U8645	7:40pm	3:00am+1	1, 5
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HANGZHOU (HGH)-SAIPAN

JD395	8:10am	3:30pm	4
JD395	10:05pm	5:30am+1	7

BEIJING (PEK)-SAIPAN

MU763	4:25pm	12:30am+1	2, 4, 6
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NARITA (NRT)-SAIPAN

DL298	10:20am	2:50pm	Daily
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MANILA (MNL)-SAIPAN

UA190/6397	9:55am	5:35pm	2, 3, 6, 7 via GUM
OZ702/625	12:15pm	1:10am+1	7 via ICN
OZ702/625	12:15pm	1:45am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 via ICN
PR1571	9:20pm	3:40am+1	3, 7
UA192/6395	9:45pm	8:05am+1	2, 5 via ROR-GUM
UA184/6395	10:25pm	8:05am+1	1, 3, 4, 6, 7 via GUM
PR110/UA6395	10:55pm	8:05am+1	Daily via GUM
UA184/6395	11:30pm	8:05am+1	2, 5 via GUM

HONG KONG (HKG)-SAIPAN

OZ722/625	1:10pm	1:10am+1	7 via ICN
OZ722/625	1:10pm	1:45am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 via ICN
U042	4:50pm	12:05am+1	2, 6
HX076	5:20pm	12:30am+1	3, 7
U042	6:05pm	1:10am+1	1
U042	6:10pm	1:00am+1	3
U042	6:10pm	1:10am+1	4
U042	6:40pm	2:00am+1	7
UA116/6395	10:45pm	8:05am+1	1, 3, 5, 6 via GUM

LEGEND: Days: Monday (1), Tuesday (2), Wednesday (3), Thursday (4), Friday (5), Saturday (6) and Sunday (7); 3U Sichuan Airlines, 7C Jeju Air, DL Delta Airlines, JD Beijing Capital, UO HK Express, HX HongKong Airlines, LJ Jin Air, MU China Eastern, OZ Asiana Airlines, TW t'way Air, UA United Airlines, ZE Eastar Jet, PR PAL Express; ETD: Estimated Time of Departure; ETA: Estimated Time of Arrival. *(The Saipan Tribune is not responsible for any changes in the schedule.)*

STAR MARIANAS AIR, INC.

SAIPAN TO ROTA

FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
1301	7:30AM	8:00AM	Daily
1302	11:30AM	12:00PM	Daily
1303	4:00PM	4:30PM	Daily

ROTA TO SAIPAN

FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
3101	8:15AM	8:45AM	Daily
3102	1:45PM	2:15PM	Daily
3103	4:45PM	5:15PM	Daily

ROTA TO GUAM

FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
3401	12:15PM	12:45PM	Daily

GUAM TO ROTA

FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
4301	1:00PM	1:30PM	Daily

SAIPAN TO TINIAN

FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
1201	7:00AM	7:15AM	Daily
1202	8:00AM	8:15AM	Daily
1203	9:00AM	9:15AM	Daily

1204	10:00AM	10:15AM	Daily
1205	11:00AM	11:15AM	Daily
1206	12:00PM	12:15PM	Daily
1207	1:00PM	1:15PM	Daily
1208	2:00PM	2:15PM	Daily
1209	3:00PM	3:15PM	Daily
1210	4:00PM	4:15PM	Daily
1211	5:00PM	5:15PM	Daily
1212	6:00PM	6:15PM	Daily

TINIAN TO SAIPAN

FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
2102	7:30AM	7:45AM	Daily
2103	8:30AM	8:45AM	Daily
2104	9:30AM	9:45AM	Daily
2105	10:30AM	10:45AM	Daily
2106	11:30AM	11:45AM	Daily
2107	12:30PM	12:45PM	Daily
2108	1:30PM	1:45PM	Daily
2109	2:30PM	2:45PM	Daily
2110	3:30PM	3:45PM	Daily
2111	4:30PM	4:45PM	Daily
2112	5:30PM	5:45PM	Daily
2113	6:30PM	6:45PM	Daily

Tinian holds 3rd Annual Youth Fishing Derby

Tinian hosted its 3rd Annual Youth Shoreline Fishing Derby on July 3-4, 2017, organized by the 16th Tinian Municipal Council, Tinian Mayor's Office, and the Marianas Visitors Authority.

Thirty youngsters between the ages of 7 and 15 joined the overnight event at Kammer Beach, beginning at 5pm on July 3 and ending at 9am on July 4.

"It was really an enjoyable time for the kids at the beach," said MVA field office supervisor Vida Borja. "Most of them ended up falling asleep and waking up later to continue casting their rods. We hope to continue to grow the derby with the participants of more young fishermen from off-island next year."

For only \$5, participants received a T-shirt, an invitation to the awards banquet, and the opportunity to vie for \$2,000 in cash prizes in different categories.

The derby was divided into two age categories: ages 7-13 and ages 14-17.

The prizes for Biggest Catch went to Sienna Lazaro in the younger category for her 2.42-lb 39.2" Yellowlip Emperor and to Rudy Sablan in the older category of his .91-lb 25" Bigeye Emperor.

Most Weight prizes in the younger category went to, in descending order, John Dorick Cabrera (1.96 lbs), Kahi Cepeda (1.92 lbs), Bonnie Gonzales (1.6 lbs), Ezra Santos (1.42 lbs), and Jasper Borja Jr. (1.32 lbs).

Most Weight prizes in the older category went to, in descending order, Rudy Sablan (4.97 lbs), Joshua Masga (3.09 lbs), Bennijay Gonzales (1.38 lbs), Maleina Quitano (1.14 lbs), and Kaia Lazaro (.71 lbs).

There were repeat winners with the Most Variety. Prizes in the younger category went to, in descending order, John Dorick Cabrera (six species), Kahi Cepeda (five species), Ezra Santos (four species), Jasper Borja Jr., (three species), and Marcial Patio (two species).

Most Variety prizes in the



older category went to, in descending order, Joshua Masga (eight species), Bennijay Gonzales (six species), Rudy Sablan (five species), Kaia Lazaro (three species), and Maleina

MVA
Sienna Lazaro of Tinian receives her \$175 prize on July 4, 2017, for first place in the Biggest Category of the 3rd Annual Youth Shoreline Fishing Derby in the Marianas. She also received a rod and reel from Rep. Alice Igitol. From left are 16th Tinian Municipal Council chair Antonio SN Borja, Lazaro, and Municipal Council vice chair Eddie M. Hofschneider.

Quitano (two species).

"A big thanks to the participants' parents, volunteer watchers, weight masters and staff of the Department of Lands & Natural Resources, Department of Public Safety, the Tinian mayor's resident directors, and Rep. Alice Igitol for making this a great event for the children," added Borja.

The next Youth Shoreline Fishing Derby is tentatively scheduled for July 3-4, 2018.

(MVA)

Out of this World: UOG awarded \$1M for research under NASA space grants

The National Aeronautics and Space Administration has awarded a \$750,000 space grant to the University of Guam through its Experimental Program to Stimulate Competitive Research program to study the geography of coral reefs in Micronesia. The funding is for three years.

UOG also received a sub-award of \$250,000 through a research partnership with the University of Hawaii under its NASA space grant EPSCoR award, bringing the total funding to \$1 million.

The UOG Marine Laboratory will spearhead the EPSCoR space grant project, which will create a geodatabase about coral reefs in Guam and Micronesia. Detailed geographic information about ocean and land conditions, including sedimentation, water quality and more will be analyzed in partnership with NASA Jet Propulsion Laboratory scientists. The data will be used to help predict and forecast reef fish spawning aggregation sites in Micronesia.

"This project will contribute to very sophisticated ocean science analysis that will also bolster our other research projects in the genomics of reef organisms," said Dr. John Peterson, UOG director of Research and Sponsored Programs.

The geospatial information gathered will further NASA research and technology development by contributing to

the science and engineering requirements of coming NASA missions. The geodatabase also establishes the foundation of a cutting-edge resource for the study of coral reef health.

"We expect to increase our capacity in GIS and remote sensing, which will augment the University's research disciplines," said Dr. Romina King, assistant professor/UOG NASA EPSCoR associate director. "We hope to also strengthen our relationship with NASA to allow for future research collaborations and to attract quality scientists and students."

Under its NASA space grant EPSCoR award, the University of Hawaii at Manoa has partnered with UOG's Water and Environmental Research Institute and College of Liberal Arts and Social Sciences to study coastal freshwater discharge from the Northern Guam Lens using thermal infra-red sensing and self-guided drones.

A total of 22 institutions received NASA space grant funding in this cycle.

"We have world-class scientists and researchers here at UOG, and our work greatly benefits our island and Region," said Dr. Robert Underwood, UOG president. "These grant awards continue to strengthen the University's research portfolio and develop UOG into a significant nexus of vital research and data exchange." **(UOG)**

NMC to host Health Careers Exploration Camp

The CNMI Area Health Education Center, through Northern Marianas College's Community Development Institute, is sponsoring a health program for youth this summer.

Students who are interested in exploring different health careers will be exposed to introductory lessons and activities in nursing, rehabilitation and human services, science and math. The program will

also feature presentations on cardio-pulmonary resuscitation and basic first aid, nutrition, mental health, and much more. The overall goal is to expose students to health careers in the CNMI.

To qualify for the program, students must be between the ages of 11 and 17 and must be interested in pursuing health careers. The deadline to enroll in the 2017 Health Sum-

mer Program is Friday, July 21, 2017 by 4pm. Seats are limited and will be on a first-come, first-serve basis.

The CNMI AHEC will subsidize this program for those who are residents of the CNMI (i.e. U.S. citizens and U.S. green card holders). Students must provide a valid, government-issued photo ID (i.e. birth certificate, passport, driver's license, etc.) for veri-

fication upon registration.

The summer program will run 8am to 12pm Tuesday through Friday, from July 25 to Aug. 4, 2017.

To register, students can visit the CDI office in Building P at the NMC Saipan campus, or contact Queanna Sablan, CNMI AHEC program manager, by phone at (670) 237-6809 or by email at queanna.sablan@marianas.edu. **(NMC)**

Jehovah's Witnesses host convention

Jehovah's Witnesses are currently canvassing the islands of Saipan, Tinian, and Rota, distributing invitations to attend a convention with the theme, "Don't Give Up!"

The three-day event is be-

ing held July 14-16 at their Kingdom Hall auditorium in Gualo Rai.

Jim Hodgson, a local elder for Jehovah's Witnesses, said a sizeable crowd is expected for the convention. Everyone

is invited to attend. Admission is free and collections will not be taken.

"Many people suffer disappointment and feel discouraged. The convention program can provide them with needed comfort," said Hodgson.

The convention begins at

9:20am daily.

There will be an immersion baptism at noon on Saturday. Those qualifying for baptism will be immersed in a pool built especially for the occasion.

For more information, visit jw.org. **(PR)**



BUSINESS PLAN COMPETITION

Commonwealth Development Authority recently recognized Northern Marianas College student Isabelle Matsunaga, third from left, for winning the 2017 Business Plan Competition, which was sponsored by CDA. Matsunaga received a trophy and \$1,000 scholarship to use toward her baccalaureate degree. The award presentation was attended by Chavel Green, NMC Business Department chair; Barbara Hunter, NMC Business Department instructor; Isabelle Matsunaga, 2017 CDA Business Plan Competition winner; Michael Camacho, CDA Business development specialist; Dr. Carmen Fernandez, NMC president; Oscar Camacho, CDA economic development analyst; and Manuel Sablan, CDA executive director.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO



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Business

Takata adds new type of inflator to air bag recall

DETROIT (AP)—Takata is adding a new type of air bag inflator to the nation's largest automotive recall.

The company filed documents with the U.S. government adding 2.7 million vehicles to the recall from Ford, Nissan and Mazda, all with a type of inflator that previously was thought to be safe.

The affected vehicles are from the 2005 through 2012 model years.

Takata inflators can explode with too much force and spew shrapnel into drivers and passengers. At least 17 people have died and more than 180 injured due to the problem. The inflators have caused the largest automotive recall in U.S. history with 42 million vehicles and up to 69 million inflators being called back for repairs.

Takata uses the chemical ammonium nitrate to inflate air bags. But it can deteriorate when exposed to high airborne humidity and high temperatures. Previously the company believed that a drying agent called a desiccant stopped the chemical from degrading.

But the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration says in a statement Tuesday that tests done by Takata show that for the first time, a type of desiccated inflator "will pose a safety risk if not replaced."



This Sunday, June 25, 2017, photo, shows TK Holdings Inc. in Auburn Hills, Mich. Takata is adding 2.7 million vehicles from Ford, Nissan and Mazda to the long list of those recalled to replace potentially dangerous air bag inflators.

AP

The agency says it has no reports of any inflators with the desiccant rupturing.

Nissan said the new recall affects just over 515,000 Versa subcompact hatchback and sedans from the 2007 through 2012 model years. Mazda said its recall covers about 6,000 B-Series trucks from 2007 through 2009. Ford, which has the most vehicles involved in the latest recall, is reviewing the information and will file a list of models within the five days required by law.

Takata said in documents filed with the safety agency that it tested inflators returned from Nissan and Ford vehicles which use calcium sulfate as a drying agent. Although none of the inflators blew apart, some showed a pattern of de-

terioration in the ammonium nitrate propellant over time "that is understood to predict a future risk of inflator rupture."

NHTSA said in a statement that not all Takata inflators with a desiccant are being recalled. Takata used different drying agents in other inflators, the agency said.

The latest recall raises doubts about the safety of other Takata Corp. inflators that use ammonium nitrate and drying agents. The company has agreed to recall all original equipment inflators without a drying agent in phases by the end of 2018. NHTSA gave Takata until the end of 2019 to prove that inflators with the drying agents are safe, or they must be recalled as well.

New GOP health bill likely keeping Obama tax boosts on rich

WASHINGTON (AP)—A revised Senate Republican health care bill will likely retain a pair of tax boosts President Barack Obama imposed on wealthier Americans that have helped finance his law's expansion of coverage, a leading Senate Republican said Tuesday.

The two levies—one on investment income and another on the payroll tax that helps finance the Medicare health insurance program for the elderly—are among the biggest that Obama's 2010 statute imposed. Some of the money would be used to increase a fund the GOP bill would disperse to states to help insurers contain consumers' premiums and deductibles, said No. 2 Senate GOP leader John Cornyn of Texas.

Preserving those taxes "seems to be where we're headed," Cornyn told reporters. He said the reworked bill will also provide \$45 billion over a decade to help states combat abuse of drugs including opioids, and make it easier

for states to get federal waivers to decide how to spend money under their Medicaid health programs for the poor, elderly and nursing home patients.

Cornyn spoke after Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell, R-Ky., announced he will introduce his party's altered health care bill Thursday and begin trying to muscle it through the Senate next week. The effort comes with the fate of the GOP measure in doubt, with internal divisions threatening to mortally wound their top-tier goal of repealing much of Obama's overhaul.

"Hopefully everything we're doing now helps another member get to 'yes,'" Cornyn said. "There's really no other reason to tweak this thing."

In the face of unanimous Democratic opposition, the health care bill will crash if just three of the 52 GOP senators oppose it. McConnell suddenly canceled a doomed vote last month on an initial version of the legislation, and at least a dozen Republicans have said they oppose the initial package

or distanced themselves from it.

Since his June retreat, McConnell has been reshaping the measure in hopes of winning GOP votes. Even so, no GOP leaders were yet predicting passage.

McConnell also said he will delay the chamber's August recess for two weeks, a rare move he said would give lawmakers time to break logjams on health care, defense and executive branch nominations. Growing numbers of Republicans, chagrined at Congress' failure to send any major bills to President Donald Trump, had called on McConnell to make that move.

The GOP bill would ease coverage requirements Obama's 2010 statute placed on insurers, like paying for maternity services; erase his tax penalties on people who don't buy policies and cut Medicaid. The measure will also eliminate most of Obama's tax increases, including boosts on insurers, pharmaceutical manufacturers and medical device makers.

Nation

Emails show Trump Jr. embraced help believed to be from Kremlin

WASHINGTON (AP)—Donald Trump's eldest son revealed Tuesday that he was eager to hear damaging information about Hillary Clinton from the Russian government, disclosing a series of emails that marked the clearest sign to date that Trump's campaign was willing to consider election help from a longtime U.S. adversary.

The email exchange posted to Twitter by Donald Trump Jr. showed him conversing with a music publicist who wanted him to meet with a "Russian government attorney" who supposedly had dirt on Clinton as "part of Russia and its government's support for Mr. Trump." The messages reveal that Trump Jr. was told the Russian government had information that could "incriminate" Clinton and her dealings with Russia.

"I love it," Trump Jr. said in one email response.

As the emails reverberated across the political world, Trump Jr. defended his actions in an interview with Fox News, blaming the decision to take the meeting on the "million miles per hour" pace

of a presidential campaign and his suspicion that the lawyer might have information about "underreported" scandals involving Clinton. Trump Jr. said the meeting "really went nowhere" and that he never told his father about it because there was "nothing to tell."

"In retrospect I probably would have done things a little differently," Trump Jr. said.

Democrats in Congress voiced outrage and insisted the messages showed clear collusion, with California Rep. Adam Schiff, the top Democrat on the House intelligence committee, declaring that "all of the campaign's previous denials obviously now have to be viewed in a different context."

Yet Republicans—who stand the most to lose politically from Trump's Russia ordeal—did not join in the condemnation. Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell said he was confident Senate investigators would "get to the bottom of whatever happened." And Sen. Susan Collins, a Maine Republican on the intelligence committee, cautioned that the emails were "only part

of the picture."

Trump Jr., who was deeply involved in his father's presidential campaign, portrayed his decision to release the emails as an effort "to be totally transparent." In fact, they had already been obtained by The New York Times.

Hours after the son posted the emails, the father rose to his defense.

"My son is a high quality person and I applaud his transparency," the president said in a statement read to reporters by White House spokeswoman Sarah Huckabee Sanders. Although Sanders declined to answer questions about the emails, she stood by the White House's longstanding insistence that no one in Trump's campaign colluded to influence the election.

The messages were the latest disclosure to roil the ongoing investigation into Russia's interference in the election and potential collusion with Trump's campaign. U.S. intelligence agencies have said the Russian government meddled in the election through hacking to aid Trump.

Soldier supported Islamic State but remained in military

HONOLULU (AP)—A U.S. soldier who was recently arrested on terrorism charges expressed support for the Islamic State group as early as 2011, but remained in the Army for years while the military and the FBI investigated to determine whether he posed a threat, authorities said.

Sgt. 1st Class Ikaika Kang was taken into custody over the weekend after the 34-year-old veteran of deployments to Iraq and Afghanistan declared his loyalty to the terrorist group and exclaimed that he wanted to "kill a bunch of people," according to authorities.

The case highlights the challenges investigators face with protecting the public from a potentially dangerous actor on one hand and gathering sufficient evidence to enable prosecution on the other.

Kang is on record making pro-Islamic State comments and threatening to hurt or kill other service members back in 2011, according to an FBI affidavit filed Monday in federal court.

The Army revoked his security clearance in 2012, but

gave it back to him the following year. Last year, the Army called the FBI when it "appeared that Kang was becoming radicalized," the affidavit said.

Retired Army judge and prosecutor Col. Gregory A. Gross said he was perplexed that the Army allowed Kang to remain a soldier even after his favorable comments toward the Islamic State group. But Gross said the Army may have decided Kang was just mouthing off and was not a threat.

Gross served as the initial judge in the court martial of Maj. Nidal Malik Hasan, an Army psychiatrist who killed 13 people and wounded more than 30 in a 2009 shooting at Fort Hood, Texas. He said Tuesday he was concerned by the similarities between Kang and Hasan's case.

"He was making all these statements, and giving these presentations," said Gross, who is currently a civilian defense attorney for military service members.

Lt. Col. Curtis J. Kellogg, a spokesman for the 25th Infantry Division, declined to

comment, citing the ongoing investigation.

Kang's court-appointed lawyer, Birney Bervar, said his client may suffer from service-related mental health issues of which the government was aware but neglected to treat. He declined to elaborate.

Noel Tipon, an attorney in military and civilian courts, said there's nothing in the Army manual on removing soldiers from the service that would address allegations like speaking favorably about a group like Islamic State.

He suspects the FBI wanted Kang to stay in the Army while they investigated whether he had collaborators.

"They probably said 'let's monitor it and see if we can get a real terrorist cell,'" said Tipon, who served in the Marine Corps.

The FBI said its investigation showed Kang was acting on his own.

Spokesman Arnold Laanui said the probe took nearly a year given the evidence that needed to be collected and the constitutional rights that needed to be protected.

Asia

Duterte: Siege may end soon

MANILA, Philippines (AP)—Philippine President Rodrigo Duterte said Tuesday that a disastrous siege by Islamic State group-aligned militants of a southern city may end in 10 to 15 days but warned that the threat posed by the brutal group will continue to plague the country.

Duterte said he would try again this week to travel to Marawi city to be with government troops but acknowledged that bad weather and the danger posed by the militants' deadly firepower have frustrated his travel plans.

"I think in 10 to 15 days it'll already be OK," Duterte said of the protracted urban battle with the militants, whose supply of weapons has surprised him.

"But remember the new scourge is ISIS, it will continue to haunt us," he said, using an acronym for the Islamic State group, in a speech before business executives.

Duterte said last Friday he would likely extend 60 days of martial law he imposed in the southern Philippines to deal with the Marawi crisis because the situation remains critical.

Hundreds of gunmen who attacked mosque-studded Marawi, a center of Islamic faith in the south of the predominantly Roman Catholic

nation, on May 23 are believed to belong to at least four local armed groups that pledged allegiance to the Islamic State group and joined in a loose alliance. Several foreign fighters also joined the insurrection. An unspecified number of gunmen are believed to have slipped out of the lakeside city.

After 50 days of ground assaults and airstrikes, troops have recaptured most areas of the city, with the death toll recently surpassing 500.

Military spokesman Brig. Gen. Restituto Padilla said 381 militants, 90 soldiers and policemen and 39 civilians have been killed in the fierce street-to-street fighting. About 300 civilians remain trapped in their homes in areas of fighting or are held by the militants, he said.

Security officials received intelligence about the planned attack days before the unprecedented Marawi siege unfolded, but they, along with the president, have acknowledged they underestimated the militants' firepower.

"We knew that they were ... all of them were there," Duterte said. "But what I really didn't



Duterte

know ... the large number of firearms ... the supply doesn't end."

The militants' vast arsenal reflects a failure to address the spread of firearms in the volatile region, where insurgents and armed groups controlled by politicians have long had a presence. "The problem would not have erupted in this magnitude if the proliferation of loose firearms was addressed years earlier," Padilla said.

Duterte has attempted twice to travel to Marawi to join government forces but said Tuesday that heavy rain and the danger posed by the militants have scuttled his plans. In his latest attempt last Friday, the tough-talking president donned a military camouflage uniform and carried an assault rifle.

"I was circling Marawi, I could not land. I could not go down nearer because we may get hit by a Barrett caliber 50 by chance," Duterte said, referring to a powerful machine gun that the militants have used.

"It's not braggadocio," said Duterte, who has backed troops by visiting their camps, the wounded and attended the wakes of slain soldiers. "It's just that I don't want to go there when it's already peaceful."

come to Malaysia illegally to work mostly low-wage jobs in the construction, plantation and manufacturing industries. As one of Southeast Asia's richest countries, Malaysia has long attracted workers from nearby nations such as Indonesia, the Philippines, Bangladesh and India. Immigration officials who conducted the midnight raid Tuesday and early Wednesday at the construction site in northern Negeri Sembilan state found 77 of the 85 workers had no valid documents. Most of them are Indonesians.

Japan leader Abe shortens Europe trip to visit flooded areas

TOKYO (AP)—Japanese Prime Minister Shinzo Abe is visiting areas of southwest Japan hard-hit by floods after he cut short his trip in Europe. Abe arrived on Japan's southernmost main island of Kyushu on Wednesday morning. He will go to the cities of Hita in Oita prefecture where heavy rains from a typhoon caused widespread flooding and landslides last week. The Fire and Disaster Management Agency has confirmed 25 deaths so far, 22 in Fukuoka and three in Oita. One person remains missing. The disaster agency says about 14,000 people, mostly in Fukuoka, are still staying in shelters. The rains from Typhoon Nanmadol ravaged parts of the southern island of Kyushu, wrecking homes, roads and rice terraces. Abe had been visiting European leaders after attending the G-20 summit in Germany. Abe cancelled a visit to Estonia, the last leg of his European trip, and returned to Japan one day earlier than planned.

ASIAN BRIEFS

14 feared dead in mudslide in India's rain-hit northeast

GAUHATI, India (AP)—A massive mudslide triggered by heavy monsoon rains swept into a village in India's remote northeast on Tuesday, leaving 14 people feared dead, officials said. Police officer Tumme Amor said the mudslide quickly buried at least six homes in Laptap village in Arunachal Pradesh state, giving occupants little time to escape. The state's top elected official, Pema Khandu, said five bodies have been recovered so far in the village in Papumpare district and relief camps have been set up for people evacuated from mudslide-prone hilly areas. Khandu tweeted that the heavy rains have disrupted road transport as well as water supplies and electricity in the state capital, Aizawl, and other parts of the state. Flooding and landslides in another northeastern state, Assam, have killed at least 28 people since mid-June. Around 500,000 people have fled their homes in 800 villages across nearly half of Assam's 27 districts, officials said.

Malaysia detains 77 foreigners in migrant worker crackdown

PORT DICKSON, Malaysia (AP)—Malaysian authorities have raided a construction site and detained 77 foreigners as part of a fresh crackdown on illegal immigration, officials said Wednesday. Immigration officials said more than 3,100 foreigners and 63 employers who allegedly hired workers illegally have been detained since a sweep began July 1. The crackdown is targeting migrants who

World

Clashes shake west Mosul

MOSUL, Iraq (AP)—Airstrikes, shelling and other heavy clashes shook a small sliver of western Mosul on Tuesday in renewed fighting, a day after the government declared victory over Islamic State militants in Iraq's second-largest city.

Amnesty International, meanwhile, proclaimed the battle for Mosul to be a "civilian catastrophe," with more than 5,800 noncombatants killed in the western part of the city. The top U.S. commander in Iraq rejected the group's allegations, however, that the U.S.-led coalition violated international law.

In a sign that IS militants were still holding out in the shattered Old City, plumes of smoke rose as mortar shells landed near Iraqi troop positions and heavy gunfire rang out. Airstrikes pounded the edge of the neighborhood west of the Tigris River throughout the day.

On Monday, Prime Minister Haider al-Abadi declared "total victory" in Mosul, flanked by his senior military leadership at a small base in the city's west.

The militants overran the northern city in summer 2014, when the extremists seized territory across Iraq and Syria. The campaign by



Smoke billows from Islamic State positions on the edge of the Old City a day after Iraq's prime minister declared "total victory" in Mosul, Iraq, Tuesday, July 11, 2017.

Iraqi forces and the coalition to retake the city began in October 2016. The operation killed thousands of people, left whole neighborhoods in ruins and displaced nearly 900,000 from their homes.

A statement late Monday from IS said its fighters were still attacking Iraqi troops in the al-Maydan area of Mosul's Old City, purportedly killing and wounding many and seizing weapons and ammunition.

Lt. Gen. Stephen Townsend said in a recorded video after al-Abadi's declaration that the victory in Mosul did not eliminate IS from Iraq and "there's still a tough fight ahead."

Townsend, the top U.S. commander in Iraq, said the

coalition will continue to support its Iraqi partners, and he urged Iraqis to unite and prevent a return of the conditions that allowed the rise of the extremists.

In Baghdad, Shiite politician Karim al-Nouri echoed those remarks, urging the government to review its policies in Sunni areas of Iraq to "avoid previous mistakes that led to the emergence" of IS.

The government needs to work on "removing fears of marginalization and terrorism affiliation in Sunni areas," said al-Nouri, a senior member of the Badr Organization. He said he believes Iraqi forces should stay in Mosul until it is fully secure

Expansion plan highlights crowded West Bank city's plight

QALQILIYA, West Bank (AP)—Last year, Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu's government quietly passed one of its most significant concessions to the Palestinians: a plan to alter the West Bank map and turn over a small chunk of Israeli-controlled territory.

But after an uproar by Israeli settler leaders, the government appears poised to cancel the move—a decision that could upset nascent U.S. efforts to restart peace talks and take away a rare piece of relief for the residents of this overcrowded city.

As the West Bank's most densely populated Palestinian city, Qalqiliya has been eagerly awaiting implementation of the Israeli plan that would allow it to double its size by expanding into land that has until now been off-limits.

"We desperately need this plan because of the density," said Mayor Hashem al-Masri. "It will be a catastrophe if we can't expand. It will feel like someone is trying to drive us out of our city."

The fate of Qalqiliya, which lies along the de facto Israeli border and is surrounded on three sides by Israel's separation barrier, touches on one of the conflict's thorniest issues: the battle over the 60 percent of the West Bank known as Area C.

Under interim peace accords reached two decades ago, Area C remained under full Israeli control, and Israel has repeatedly rejected calls to allow large-scale Palestinian development there. These restrictions have made life difficult for Qalqiliya's 53,000 residents, who live on just over 1.5 square miles (4 square kilometers) of land. Because of the separation barrier, the only way it can expand is east—into privately owned Palestinian lands in Area C where Israel has barred construction. The plan calls for building more than 14,000 new housing units, an industrial park, playgrounds, a waste management plant and a cemetery.

Qalqiliya has been among the quietest cities in the West Bank, and has even been sin-

gled out by Israel's nationalist defense minister, Avigdor Lieberman, as a model. Its planned expansion is one of the flagships of Lieberman's "carrot and stick" policy toward the Palestinians.

Qalqiliya was once a regular shopping destination for Israelis. Palestinians would cross into Israel freely for jobs, and some locals can still fondly recall leisurely riding their bikes to Israeli beaches on the Mediterranean. But all that changed after the second Palestinian uprising in 2000, when a campaign of suicide bombings in Israel prompted tougher security measures and eventually a barrier that cut the West Bank off with walls and sophisticated fences.

It's now a sleepy city that produces agriculture and not much else. It's mostly known for housing a popular West Bank zoo, a decrepit menagerie by Western standards that is famous for the taxidermy of its deceased animals. Earlier this year, a caged bear bit off the arm of a Palestinian child who apparently tried to feed it.

Focus

Despite freedom, many ex-fishing slaves struggle

By MARGIE MASON
ASSOCIATED PRESS

On the day they were freed from slavery, the fishermen hugged, high-fived and sprinted through a stinging rain to line up so they wouldn't be left behind. But even as they learned they were going home, some wept at the thought of returning empty-handed and becoming one more mouth to feed.

Two years have passed since an Associated Press investigation spurred that dramatic rescue, leading to the release of more than 2,000 men trapped on remote Indonesian islands. The euphoria they first felt during reunions with relatives has long faded. Occasional stories of happiness and opportunity have surfaced, but the men's fight to start over has largely been narrated by shame and struggle.

Some of them are lucky to find odd jobs paying pennies an hour in cramped slums and rural villages in Myanmar, Cambodia, Thailand and Laos. Others must travel far from home for back-breaking labor.

Some suffer night terrors and trauma from the years or even decades of physical and mental abuse they endured on boats run by Thai captains. Others have fought their demons with drugs and alcohol.

At least one Cambodian tried to hang himself. Another Thai fisherman went back to work on a different boat at home, only to have his arm ripped off by a net. He says he was offered about \$3 and a few packets of instant noodles as compensation.

The men left their impoverished homes years ago full of hope and headed to neighboring Thailand, promising to send money back from good-paying jobs. Instead, they were tricked, sold or even kidnapped and put onto boats that became floating prisons.

They then were trafficked thousands of miles away to the isolated Indonesian island village of Benjina, where the AP first found hundreds of captive fishermen, including some locked in a cage simply because they asked to go home. They were beaten and routinely forced to work up to 22 hours a day. The unluckiest ones ended up in the sea or buried in a company graveyard under fake names—their bodies will likely never be recovered.

The AP story prompted the Indonesian government to initiate a rescue. It also traced fish tainted by forced labor back to the supply chains of many major U.S. companies



In this Sept. 9, 2015 file photo, Burmese fishermen who are waiting for their turn to be flown to their home country rest at a temporary shelter in Ambon, Maluku province, Indonesia. Two years have passed since an Associated Press investigation spurred a dramatic rescue, leading to the release of more than 2,000 enslaved fishermen trapped on several remote Indonesian islands. The euphoria the men first felt during reunions with relatives has long faded. Occasional stories of happiness and opportunity have surfaced, but their fight to start over has largely been narrated by shame and struggle.

and pet food brands, including Wal-Mart, Sysco, Kroger, Fancy Feast and Iams.

"What happened in Benjina has opened everybody's eyes," says Indonesian fishing minister Susi Pudjiastuti, who oversaw the rescue and is pushing for improved human rights at sea globally.

Despite all the suffering following their homecomings, there are stories of inspiration.

Some of the men borrowed money, enrolled in trade school or found decent work, saving what little they could. Others are opening small businesses, or have married and started families.

A few have gone to court to challenge their former captains, receiving a small portion of the pay they were owed. In rare instances, some even helped send their traffickers to jail.

Many say time has helped soften the pain, but most remain angry about the money and years lost to Benjina. Still, they are thankful to be home, living as free men.

They are slaves no more.

SICK AND UNEMPLOYED

MON STATE, Myanmar—Myint Naing sits outside the flimsy thatch shack he shares with five other family members. He stares silently at a computer alongside his mother and sister, watching flickering images of their extraordinary reunion two years ago.

The memories are still raw of Myint collapsing into his wailing mother's arms on the same dusty road just feet away from where they sit now in southern Myanmar. That day

was tinged with both joy and sorrow for all the time lost—ending 22 years of separation after Myint was taken to Indonesia and nearly beaten to death by a captain who refused to let him go home.

His mother blots her eyes and briefly looks away from the screen. Myint's younger sister sees herself embracing her brother and screaming, "We don't need money! We just need family!"

She never realized just how much those words would be tested every day in the harsh reality of poverty.

Myint, now 42, desperately wants to work, but he's simply not able. He tried doing construction and other manual labor, but the muscles on the right side of his body were weakened by a stroke-like attack in Indonesia. He can't even steady a smartphone with one hand long enough to take a selfie.

He dreams of opening a little snack shop to contribute to the family's income, but there is no money to start it.

"Half of my body is suffering, and it's very challenging for me to get a job anywhere," he says, as his nieces dance around him on a rickety porch. "I don't really know how to keep going like this."

He's also stressed. He and his sister moved out of their mother's house soon after he returned, partially because Myint didn't get along with his new stepfather, who is about his age.

His sister, Mawli Than, and her husband together earn less than \$5.50 a day to feed three children and three adults. But she has kept her promise to

love and care for him no matter what.

She wishes she could afford to get Myint the long-term medical care he needs. Her voice cracks when she talks about not being able to give him a proper ceremony before he left to study as a Buddhist novice, a custom that every devout Burmese male tries to fulfill.

"I feel really sad and guilty that I wasn't able to do that," she says, sobbing, as he listens quietly in the doorway. "My brother is like a father to me."

Myint's freshly shaved head reveals two large scars he received during his years in Indonesia. One is from a motorbike helmet, the other from an iron rod - both blows from angry fishing captains.

He eventually escaped his captors and lived in the jungle for years, farming vegetables with help from sympathetic local families.

He insists life is better now that he is home. But his mind often drifts to the past. If his former Thai captains would just pay him what he's owed for all the time he worked on the boats, he could buy his own house and help his sister instead of making her life harder.

"I'm very angry at them. I can't even find words," he says. "If I ever saw them again, I might kill them."

HAPPY ON LAND

PREK TATIENG, Cambodia—A gas-powered pump growls on Srieiv Kry's back as he walks barefoot, spraying a stream of pesticide on pink lotus blossoms that will soon be ready for harvest.



In this April 11, 2017 photo, former enslaved fishermen Phyto Kyaw, center right, and Win Ko Naing, center left, walk in a Yangon street, Myanmar. After Kyaw was rescued from Benjina, he worked for a few months on the gritty outskirts of Yangon as a motorbike taxi driver, but the money wasn't good and his bike soon got stolen.

The work is hard and unfor-giving. He doesn't wear a mask or other protective gear, and there aren't any trees in the surrounding rice paddy to shield him from the blistering sun. But this is Cambodian soil, and it belongs to him. It's a freedom he says he never really understood until being trafficked and enslaved in Benjina.

The wiry rice farmer never wanted to be a fisherman because the ocean's roiling waves had always sent him running to the side of the boat to vomit. So when a cousin asked if he was interested in leaving his rural Cambodian village to find higher-paying work in Thailand, he refused until he was promised a factory job or something else on land.

Unlike most migrant workers who cross the border illegally, Srieiv Kry and two of his cousins waited to receive passports before leaving in 2014.

They were immediately taken to a boat and ordered to get on board after receiving \$880 advances. They were told they wouldn't be at sea long. But it was all a lie.

Just as their trawler reached the Malaysian border, Srieiv Kry says he woke up to learn a Burmese fisherman was missing. They didn't stop to search for him, and no calls were made for help. Instead, Srieiv Kry says the Thai owner told the workers that "life on the boat doesn't matter. No one cares about missing people."

He says the men then watched as the crew member's passport was tossed into the sea, destroying the only record of his existence.

"The other workers just saw that life is very cheap," Srieiv Kry recalls. "It is cheaper than the bodies of dogs."

He tried not to cause problems

and worked nonstop on the boat, sorting mountains of fish. He saw other crew beaten or scalded by water tossed on them when they were too sick to work.

"It's like a slave's life. It's even worse than a slave. Slaves can sometimes complain or challenge the owner," he says. "If we refused, if we complained, the Thai owner always asked: 'You want to live? You want to have a life? Or do you want to die?'"

Srieiv Kry was only able to contact his wife a few times from Benjina. He told her he wasn't sure he'd ever make it back home to the emerald green rice paddies and lotus fields they tended together.

Two of their four children were studying in the capital, Phnom Penh, with one already in university. The baby was just a year old, and the family was struggling to survive because Srieiv Kry never sent the money he was promised. But his wife, Khan Srin, encouraged him to hold on. To focus on staying alive.

When he was finally rescued, Srieiv Kry was done being silent: He volunteered to testify against his captain. He saw it as his duty to speak out to prevent others from facing the same fate. He is still waiting for his day in court.

Today, at 44, he earns about \$10 a day farming the field that rings a one-room shack perched on stilts overlooking the few acres of land he owns. He sleeps here sometimes, away from his nearby village, to stand watch over his crops. He also sells mangoes from his beat-up motorbike just across the border in Vietnam and harvests catfish from a lake - the only fishing he says he will ever do again.

It's not much, but it's enough to pay his debts and

See **DESPITE** on Page 19

Environment

Climate change expected to fuel larger forest fires—if it hasn't already

By JOSHUA EMERSON SMITH
THE SAN DIEGO UNION-TRIBUNE

SAN DIEGO—Global warming will likely heighten the risk of large, more difficult to control wildfires scorching the western United States.

It's the main conclusion of a body of science that, over the years, has increasingly drawn connections in the West between the prevalence of major blazes and the rising frequency of earlier springtime conditions followed by hotter and drier summers.

"Climate absolutely affects fire because it affects how flammable the fuels are," said LeRoy Westerling, a professor at the University of California, Merced who has been studying climate and wildfires for the past 15 years.

"Your drought years are going to be more extreme because it's warmer during the drought years, so you have more evaporation, and those preceding years that were wetter are retaining less water," added Westerling, who has worked on these issues with colleagues at places like UC San Diego's Scripps Institution of Oceanography in La Jolla.

They and other scientists from Oregon and Washington state to California and Colorado have collaborated on improving long-range climate projections, developing more

sophisticated computer modeling and creating customized equipment to better monitor weather and wildfire conditions, among other projects.

All of this work has continued to proceed despite escalating debate over the scientific validity of climate change forecasting—in the courts between regulators and major companies, in divisive policies from the White House to statehouses to city councils, in dueling marketing campaigns between conservationists and the fossil fuel industry, in testy exchanges among world leaders about whether particular countries are truly committed to lowering their greenhouse-gas emissions.

This year alone, global warming has been the subject of much attention.

In his proposed budget, President Donald Trump calls for slashing the budgets of two federal agencies most associated with climate change research and enforcement—the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency and the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration.

Then in late May, he announced that the United States would withdraw from the Paris climate change accord, in which almost every country has pledged to reduce emissions of carbon dioxide and other gases linked to Earth's warming. Trump has set off a cascade of



voices worldwide praising or denouncing the decision.

Scientists, environmentalists and others have tried to put forth their own message directly to consumers, including through rallies such as the March for Science at several hundred locations across the U.S. in April.

The research on climate change and wildfires in the western U.S. has largely escaped this escalating controversy, perhaps because the body of evidence collected

has consistently pointed to the same trend of mega wildfires happening more frequently.

Westerling systematically cataloged wildfires in the western U.S. over several years and found that in the mid-1980s, fires in U.S. forests steadily started getting larger and burning longer.

The number of fires that burned more than 1,000 acres on federally managed lands from the Pacific Northwest to the Sierra Nevada and through to the Southern Rockies increased

fivefold in the last three decades, according to his research.

From 1973 to 1982, the average wildfire burned for six days. Between 2003 and 2012, that figure shot up to 52 days.

While the number of reported ignitions remained steady, the acreage burned by large fires between those time frames increased by up to 1,200 percent.

At the same time, the so-called fire season expanded. That's the number of days between the first and last large

TNS
SANTA CLARITA, CA - JUNE 26, 2017- Firefighter squad boss Matt Davidson talks with fellow firefighters from Bear Divide Hotshots as they work on burned hills to gain complete containment on Monday afternoon June 26, 2017 of a wildfire that is burning in the Placerita Canyon area of Santa Clarita after it spread across 870 acres and briefly triggered power outages and mandatory evacuations for nearby residents on Sunday.

blazes of any given year. Since the 1970s, the 10-year average increased 84 days from 138 to 222.

Westerling predicts that as a result, forest compositions in certain regions could dramatically change. Instead of large older trees, woodland areas may become populated with younger, smaller trees that burn more often.

If this happens, large forests in California could shift from ecosystems that suck up large amounts of carbon dioxide to those that give off significant amounts of greenhouse gas.

"Over time, what happens in our modeling, is the Sierra Nevada stores less and less carbon, and then these areas start becoming carbon sources instead of carbon sinks," he said. "So it starts contributing to climate change over the next couple of centuries."

DESPITE

From Page 18

feed his family. His captain in Benjina swore more earnings would be sent, but Srieve Kry says nothing ever came.

He remains angry and is still haunted by the image of the dead crewman's passport being thrown into the sea. But he's happy to be home and vows he'll never leave his family again.

"I was just rescued from hell," he says, shaking his head. "Why would I go back to hell again?"

STILL A FISHERMAN

YANGON, Myanmar—Phyo Kyaw's father wept when he heard his son was returning to Thailand to board another fishing boat. But there was nothing he could do.

After the 31-year-old was rescued from Benjina, he worked a few months on the gritty outskirts of Yangon driving a bus and a motorbike taxi, but the money wasn't good and his bike soon was stolen.

Several of Phyo's friends from Benjina already had gone back to Thailand to find better-paying work, and they encouraged him to get a pass-

port and join them on another fishing boat. They had heard good stories about the company, and they all had legal working documents this time. They were convinced their papers would protect them from exploitation.

Phyo left Myanmar without telling his father. He went to the same port town where he was initially trafficked and got on a trawler with 13 other Burmese men.

After being beaten and spending more than two years on Benjina with no pay, he was scared of being trafficked again but decided to take a chance. As he prepared to leave, he met other fishermen who had just docked - they had been at sea for three years without touching land.

"I don't think it's fair, but it's my choice to go," Phyo says. "My father is the only financial provider here for the moment so at least if I go to Thailand, I can bring some money back."

Phyo didn't know where his boat was going or how long he would be gone. He also had no idea if he was fishing legally or poaching, a common but dangerous practice that can land an entire crew in a foreign jail.

The days were still long but,

this time, he got a few more hours of sleep—four or five a night—and he wasn't beaten.

After six months at sea, the trawler returned to Thailand. Phyo should have made nearly \$1,600 for the trip, but was left with just \$350 after deductions for fees, food and supplies.

He could have earned nearly double that amount driving the motorbike taxi back home. Still, he's thinking about going out to sea again with another group of Benjina guys.

His father, an electrical engineer, can only shake his head with disappointment.

"As parents, you are always worried about your children," Aye Kyaw, 67, says inside the family's small, sweltering apartment.

But Phyo just shrugs. Fishing is what he knows.

"If I can get a better job here, I won't go," he says. "But if I don't have anything, I will go on a fishing boat."

FORGIVENESS AS A MONK

SAMUT SAKHON, Thailand—Wrapped in flowing saffron robes with a shaved head, Prasert Jakkawaro speaks calmly and softly as he looks back on his lost life.

He spent eight years fishing

the Arafura Sea's rich waters off Benjina. If he was lucky, his boat docked twice a year. He worked around the clock, but says he was never paid what was promised.

The memories still cut like razor blades, but he does not show it. His voice remains steady, his fingers laced loosely across his lap. The rage that once sent him searching for solace at the bottom of a bottle has died. He now finds comfort praying in a monastery as a Buddhist monk and helping others who have lost their way.

"I feel that I have to give forgiveness and kindness back," he says, his robe concealing tattoos from his former life. "I have another chance. There's no point in dwelling on the past. The anger will only follow me in this life and into the next."

Finding peace wasn't easy: He was first forced to confront all of the evil he saw.

Even though the captains were Thai like him, he says he was treated just as badly as his fellow fishermen from Myanmar and Cambodia. They rarely had vegetables or meat to eat - just fish and rice for every meal, and even that wasn't guaranteed. Those who got sick were forced to work

anyway, and he saw one crew member die due to a lack of medical attention. Sleep was a luxury.

"If you don't get up, the metal rod will be used to bang on your door and beat on your legs," says Prasert, 53. "The rule is that if you can eat, then you have to work."

When he asked to go home after just one year on his trawler, he was told he first had to find a replacement, an impossible request on a remote island with hundreds of other enslaved men just as desperate to leave.

Once, after coming ashore, Prasert asked his captain for more money. As punishment, he says he was tossed into a tiny, muggy cell with about 20 other men.

The security guards then used the imprisoned fishermen for a twisted form of entertainment—forcing them to beat each other up.

"You would get hit so hard that you could see the handprints on your face," Prasert says.

Over the years, he lost hope and rage festered inside him. He talked about attacking the captain, but the other fishermen always managed to calm him down.

After he was finally rescued and returned home to Thailand, he received a settlement of about \$2,250 from the boat owner. It was far short of the nearly \$9,000 he says he was owed, but he knows most of the other men received nothing.

The anger continued to swell, and he wallowed in alcohol and slept anywhere he could find, including on a bathroom floor. Staff at the local nonprofit Labor Rights Protection Network, which has long assisted trafficked fishermen, pushed him to seek help.

With encouragement from his sister, Prasert spent three months studying at a Buddhist temple.

Slowly, the hatred began to melt.

"When I attend ceremonies, people really look at me as if I can shine a light on their life, and it makes me feel that I am useful again," he says. "I feel like I can have real happiness at last."

Information for this story came from interviews with nearly 15 former fishermen in Cambodia, Myanmar and Thailand along with nonprofits in Cambodia and Thailand.

Life & Style

Question raised about timeline of Amelia Earhart documentary

NEW YORK (AP)—A Japanese military history buff has apparently undermined a new theory that Amelia Earhart survived a crash-landing in the Pacific Ocean during her historic attempted round-the-world flight in 1937.

The history blogger has posted the same photograph that formed the backbone of a History channel documentary that aired on Sunday that argued that Earhart was alive in July 1937—but the book the photo was in was apparently published two years before the famed aviator disappeared. The History channel is looking into the matter but stands behind its documentary.

The undated black-and-white photo is of a group of people standing on a dock on Jaluit Atoll in the Marshall Islands. One of the people seems to be a slim woman with her back to the camera.

The documentary argued that it proved Earhart, along with her navigator Fred Noonan, landed in 1937 in the Japanese-held Marshall Islands, where they were picked up by the Japanese military and held prisoner.

The History channel said Tuesday its investigators are “exploring the latest developments about Amelia Earhart



Archives in College Park, Maryland. The blogger said he found the same image digitized in Japan's National Diet Library but it has not been authenticated.

The disappearance of Earhart and Noonan on July 2, 1937, in the Western Pacific Ocean has been the subject of continuing searches, research and debate.

A longstanding theory is that the famed pilot ran out of gas and crashed into deep ocean waters northwest of Howland Island, a tiny speck in the South Pacific that she and Noonan missed.

In this file photo taken on or about July 2, 1937, American aviator Amelia Earhart, left, and her navigator, Fred Noonan, right, pose beside their plane with gold miner F.C. Jacobs at Lae, New Guinea just before Earhart and Noonan took off in a flight to Howland Island on July 2, during which they disappeared somewhere in the Pacific.

AP

and we will be transparent in our findings.”

“Ultimately, historical accuracy is most important to us and our viewers,” it said in a statement.

In the documentary, the photo is subjected to facial-

recognition and other forensic testing, such as torso measurements. Experts on the show claimed the subjects are likely Earhart and Noonan.

A retired federal agent said he discovered the image in 2012 in the National

Men who stopped train attack to star in Clint Eastwood film

SACRAMENTO, Calif. (AP)—The three California men who thwarted a terror attack on a French train in 2015 will make the rare move of playing themselves in a Clint Eastwood-directed film about their heroics, a studio announced Tuesday.

Airman 1st Class Spencer Stone, Oregon National Guardsman Alek Skarlatos and civilian Anthony Sadler, all childhood friends from California, will star in “The 15:17 to Paris,” a film based on the book they co-wrote about taking down a terrorist, Warner Bros. said in a statement.

The film, which began production this week, follows the lives of the three friends from childhood to the evening when they helped subdue the man who opened fire inside a train traveling from Amsterdam to Paris.

The Sacramento-area men were vacationing in Europe when they tackled Ayoub El-Khazzani, a man who authorities said has ties to radical Islam. El-Khazzani had boarded the Paris-bound train with a Kalashnikov rifle, pistol and box cutter.

The film will be the lat-



In this Sept. 11, 2015 file photo, Oregon National Guardsman Alek Skarlatos, left, U.S. Airman Spencer Stone, center, and Anthony Sadler attend a parade held to honor the three Americans who stopped a gunman on a Paris-bound passenger train, in Sacramento, Calif.

AP

est of several about real-life heroes that Eastwood has taken on, including 2014's “American Sniper,” and 2016's “Sully.” But the leads in those films were played by Oscar-nominee Bradley Cooper and Oscar-winner Tom Hanks, respectively, not their actual subjects.

It's common to give cameo roles to the subjects of films that don't require more than a line or two, but this case is nearly unprecedented in recent Hollywood history. There are

no reports of the men having any acting experience, though Skarlatos appeared on “Dancing With the Stars” soon after the Paris incident.

Nearly all who have played themselves on screen were actors to begin with, such as Kumail Nanjiani in the current release “The Big Sick” or John Malkovich in 1999's “Being John Malkovich.”

The studio's statement did not elaborate on what prompted Eastwood and Warner Bros. to cast the men.

Kermit the Frog will have a new voice after actor steps down

NEW YORK (AP)—There's a frog in a lot of throats across the country as news has circulated that Kermit the Frog is getting a new voice.

ABC News and The Hollywood Reporter report that Steve Whitmire has left his role giving life to the iconic green Muppet. Whitmire has voiced and made the character move since Muppets creator Jim Henson's death in 1990.

A Muppets Studio spokeswoman told the outlets that longtime Muppets performer Matt Vogel will be taking over the role. Vogel has voiced such characters as Big Bird, Robin the Frog and The Count.

Joe Hennes, the co-owner, senior contributor and editor of ToughPigs.com, a website for Muppet fans, said the reaction among fans has been cautiously optimistic.

“They're obviously sad about the news but they're excited to see what's going to happen. There's a much larger sense of optimism about what's coming up next for the Muppets,” he said.

Representatives for Disney, which owns Muppets Studio, didn't return a request for comment Tuesday about the motivation behind the move. The Muppets have been putting out short weekly YouTube videos called “Thought of the Week” and Hennes said the new Kermit will likely debut there next week.



In this July 11, 2015, file photo, Kermit the Frog, left, and puppeteer Steve Whitmire attend “The Muppets” panel on day 3 of Comic-Con International in San Diego.

AP

In addition to Kermit, Whitmire had voiced grumpy critic Statler, Rizzo the Rat, the always-startled Beaker and other characters for the Muppets.

“For a lot of adults, Steve's Kermit is the Kermit they grew up with,” Hennes said. “Although we see the voice being changed again or the baton is being passed once again, for a lot of people this is kind of the first time in their lives they're aware of this happening to the character.”

Children's TV shows have survived changes in key cast members before, most notably when Elmo puppeteer Kevin Clash resigned from “Sesame Street” in 2012 amid allegations that he sexually abused underage boys. Elmo is now performed by Ryan Dillon.

Kermit made his debut in a 1955 television comedy called “Sam and Friends,” which

aired locally in Washington, D.C., but he looked more lizardlike back then. Kermit was fashioned from an old coat belonging to Henson's mother and was named after one of Henson's childhood friends.

Henson and his 2-foot-tall puppet joined “Sesame Street” in 1969. “The Muppet Show” followed in 1976 and ended its run in 1982.

Whitmire and Kermit were inseparable for years, with the two making TV appearances on “Late Night with Jimmy Fallon,” “30 Rock” and “Saturday Night Live” and in films like “Muppets Most Wanted” and “The Muppets” in 2011.

But Hennes points out that when Whitmire took over from Henson, many believed that the new Kermit simply sounded wrong. After 27 years, most fans have reconciled.

German police raid homes in connection with stolen gold coin

BERLIN (AP)—Special police units in Germany have raided several homes in Berlin in connection with a 100-kilogram (221-pound) gold coin stolen from a city museum.

Police raided the apartments early Wednesday in the city's Neukölln neighborhood, but didn't immediately give any details on whether they found the coin or if they arrested any

suspects.

The "Big Maple Leaf" coin, worth several million euros (dollars), was stolen in a spectacular heist from Berlin's Bode museum in March.

At least two burglars broke into the museum in March, using a ladder to climb to a window from elevated railway tracks. They grabbed the coin and loaded it onto a wheelbarrow.

Actor James Cromwell to report to jail for plant protest

WAWAYANDA, N.Y. (AP)—Oscar-nominated actor James Cromwell is heading to jail in New York for blocking traffic to protest a power plant.

A town judge sentenced the 77-year-old Cromwell and two fellow protesters to

a week in the Orange County Jail for civil disobedience at the construction site of a 650-megawatt natural gas-fired power plant in December 2015.

The protesters say the plant in Waway-



Cromwell

anda (way-way-AHN'-dah), 60 miles (96 kilometers) northwest of New York City, threatens the environment. A spokesman for the group Protect Orange

County says Cromwell and others will rally at the plant site before reporting to jail Friday afternoon.

Cromwell lives in a neighboring town. He has appeared in more than 50 films, including "Babe" and "L.A. Confidential."



POSTPONED CONCERT

In this Feb. 5, 2017, file photo, Lady Gaga performs during the halftime show of the NFL Super Bowl 51 football game between the New England Patriots and the Atlanta Falcons in Houston. Lady Gaga is postponing the first stop of her 2017 Dive Bar Tour originally scheduled for Thursday in Las Vegas. A statement released Tuesday, July 11, said the singer is "deep in rehearsals for her world tour and is working to reschedule a date as soon as possible." (AP)

'Pen-Pineapple-Apple-Pen' and the UN have a new rhyme

TOKYO (AP)—"Pen-Pineapple-Apple-Pen" and the U.N. are rhyming.

Japanese comedian Pikotaro has adapted his catchy song to promote the United Nations' sustainable development goals. The original went viral last year after pop star Justin Bieber tweeted that it was his favorite video.

Pikotaro, in his trademark leopard-lizard design outfit, was a bit reserved at an appearance Wednesday alongside the more conservatively dressed Foreign Minister Fumio Kishida.

The PPAP star beamed at the invitation to accompany the diplomat to New York and pledged to do his utmost for the awareness campaign. They'll debut the U.N. version, "SDGs," on Monday.

At first, Pikotaro seemed unconvinced. "Do you mean the U.N., one that is in New York? Me? Are you sure?" he asks half-jokingly. Kishida reassured him that it is a Japan-hosted reception at the U.N. headquarters where he will be performing.

The U.N. action plan sets goals in fighting poverty, climate change and other global challenges. Kishida says he needs to boost awareness for the project in which every citizen needs to help. "Pikotaro-san's popularity would be extremely effective to boost public recognition," Kishida told him.

Pikotaro says it would be a challenge to achieve all the goals, but he is happy to accept the Foreign Ministry's appointment to the promotional role and to help by doing what he does best. "Something easy that encourages people to watch and follow example."

He also gave Kishida a brief posing lesson, demonstrating hand gestures showing 17 development project areas as the minister struggled to copy Pikotaro.

There was no dancing lesson, however. In the PPAP song, Pikotaro mimics stabbing a pen into an apple and a pineapple while singing simple English lyrics and dancing to a catchy beat.

Costa Rica releases man accused of Ariana Grande threat

SAN JOSE, Costa Rica (AP)—A 22-year-old Colombian man accused of threatening an attack at a concert by pop singer Ariana Grande has been released but is barred from leaving Costa Rica, authorities said Tuesday.

A statement from prosecutors said the man was released on parole Sunday night and will be free while the investigation continues.

Prosecutors have said the

threat was written in Arabic and posted online using a social media account. Officials have released only the man's family names, Caicedo Lopez.

The threat came on the heels of a May 22 bombing at a Grande performance in Manchester, England, that killed 22 people and injured dozens more.

Grande's performance in Costa Rica went ahead as scheduled Sunday.

Wedding date forces difficult decision for maid of honor

DEAR ABBY: My best friend is getting married next year and I am supposed to be the maid of honor. I am Jewish, and she scheduled her wedding on the first day of Passover. This also means her rehearsal dinner will be during my family's first Seder.

How do I explain to her that for the first time in my life, she has broken my heart? It seems her family doesn't understand that Jewish holidays are as important as theirs. She is asking me to choose between my beliefs, my family and our friendship.

What do I say to her, or should I just decline to be in her wedding? With 52 weekends in a year, I feel like she could have found another day.

BROKENHEARTED IN BOSTON

DEAR BROKENHEARTED: Your friend was under no obligation to time her wedding date to avoid conflicting with your religious ritual. If you are wise, you will put aside the temptation to lay a guilt trip on her. Explain that you will be unable to be part of her wedding party the same way you explained it to me. Because you are strictly observant, you should make clear to her why this religious observance takes precedence over her wedding.

DEAR ABBY: As my children have grown older, I have regarded myself as matriarch of the family, giving advice and

help where I think it's needed. Lately, though, I'm afraid my relationship with them may have taken a turn for the worse. I can't seem to stop criticizing.

Recently they sat down with me and told me they dread coming to visit, are sick of my "mother-in-law" treatment of their spouses and collectively wish I'd check my tongue. I meant well, but my kids are right. The problem is, I'm afraid I can't stop. Trying to hold my opinions back leaves me anxious and depressed.

My family is pretty normal, and I don't want to alienate anyone. But I am having difficulty dialing back these habits and don't know where to turn.

CRITICAL MATRIARCH IN UTAH

DEAR MATRIARCH: When the urge to criticize becomes overwhelming, bite your tongue or leave the room. The only exception would be if you see an impending disaster.

I'll share with you some advice my mother gave me years ago: The most unwelcome advice in the world is that which is unasked for. Take it to heart and your relationship with your adult children and their spouses may improve.

DEAR ABBY: I'm planning to travel to another state in September and trying to save up for the plane ticket. The issue is, I'm going during my birthday. I'd like my family to help me

DEAR ABBY

By ABIGAIL VAN BUREN
UNIVERSAL PRESS SYNDICATE



Dear Abby is written by Abigail Van Buren, also known as Jeanne Phillips, and was founded by her mother, Pauline Phillips. Contact Dear Abby at www.DearAbby.com or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.

with the cost of the trip, even if it's only \$5 to \$10, instead of buying me gifts. How do I go about telling them that, instead of gifts, I'd prefer money without sounding ungrateful or pushy? I just would really like help paying for my trip.

FAMILY HELP

DEAR FAMILY HELP: Because you would prefer cash to tangible gifts, a way to approach this would be to confide your preference in your mother or another close relative and let that person spread the word. Good luck!

Good advice for everyone – teens to seniors – is in "The Anger in All of Us and How to Deal With It." To order, send your name and mailing address, plus check or money order for \$7 (U.S. funds) to: Dear Abby, Anger Booklet, P.O. Box 447, Mount Morris, IL 61054-0447. (Shipping and handling are included in the price.)

Pastimes

Calvin and Hobbes

By Bill Waterson



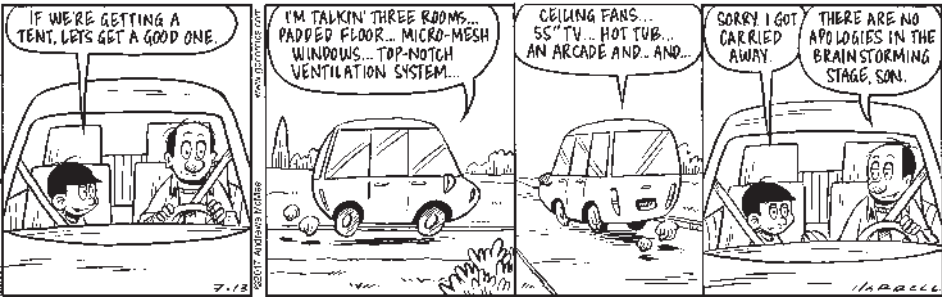
Garfield®

By Jim Davis



Adam@home

By Bryan Bassett



The Duplex

By Glenn McCoy



CROSSWORD By Eugene Sheffer

ACROSS

1 Japanese soup
5 Tub session
9 Just out
12 Rights org.
13 Norway's capital
14 Man-mouse link
15 Club sandwich stabber
17 Zilch
18 View-points
19 Surprise win
21 Exist
22 "American Buffalo" playwright
24 Needing liniment
27 Actor Voight
28 Droop
31 Chinese chairman
32 GI entertainers
33 Corp. boss
34 Branches
36 Sawbuck
37 Nonfat milk

DOWN

1 — Hari
2 PC picture
3 Trudge
4 Expenditure
5 Conks on the head
6 "— was saying ..."
7 Pampering, for short
8 Non-sense
9 Like easy-to-clean pans
10 Canal of song
11 Mr. Disney
16 Haw's partner
20 Church seat
22 Heston role
23 Unsigned (Abbr.)
24 Docs' org.
25 Jam ingredient?
26 Nostalgic, in a way
27 Burlap fiber
29 Luau souvenir
30 Male turkey
35 Pouch
37 Intoxicated
39 Feelings, informally
40 Bird (Pref.)
41 Weak singer
42 New Age
43 Friend
44 Cleopatra's river
45 Pac-12 sch.
46 Scratched (out)
49 Sound of relief
50 Lyricist Gershwin

Solution time: 25 mins.

Yesterday's answer 7-13

CELEBRITIES BORN ON THIS DAY: Deborah Cox, 43; Cheech Marin, 71; Harrison Ford, 75; Patrick Stewart, 77.

Happy Birthday: Use your charm to get what you want. It's OK to do things your own special way. How others perceive you isn't important. It's how you feel about the way you look and act that counts. You'll achieve your goals if you stick to what feels right. A change will spark your imagination. Your numbers are 3, 10, 18, 21, 25, 34, 43.

ARIES (March 21-April 19): Keep what you are up to a secret. You'll accomplish far more if you get things done first and talk about them later. Interference will be what holds you back when you should be moving forward. Charm and romance are encouraged. ***

TAURUS (April 20-May 20): You'll get a new lease on life if you get involved in something different or visit a destination you've never been to before. Change will spark your imagination and challenge you in exciting new ways. ****

GEMINI (May 21-June 20): Deal with sensitive issues carefully. Someone will use persuasive or manipulative tactics to influence a decision you have to make. Use intelligence over emotions when reacting to what others do or say. Stand firm, but be willing to listen. **

CANCER (June 21-July 22): Look for new challenges. Use your imagination and set out to make a change that will encourage you to learn from those with more experience. Participate and be open to new be-

ginnings. A proactive approach to life will bring positive results. *****

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22): Secrets must be kept. If you think you can trust someone with an emotional matter, think again. Don't feel the need to share with someone who is insincere. Question others' motives and remain secretive for the time being. ***

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22): Emotional deception is apparent when dealing with personal or business relationships. Don't take what anyone tells you at face value. Mistakes will be due to false information or misleading gestures. Don't take the blame for someone else. ***

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22): Put more thought into whatever job you are given. You'll be judged by how and what you do. Once your responsibilities are taken care of, you can use wit and charm to gain popularity, but for now, take care of business first. ****

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21): Explore creative endeavors and unique lifestyles that you feel will enhance your home and relationships. Compassion, honesty and a willingness to implement advice will lead you to success. A short trip will inspire and motivate you. *****

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21): Uncertainty will prevail if you aren't being honest with yourself or those you deal with today. Only take on what you can afford. If you are impulsive, it will end up costing you financially and physically. **

EUGENIA LAST

THE LAST WORD IN ASTROLOGY

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CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19): Keep everything in order to avoid being limited by red tape or inadequate documentation. Problems while traveling or taking on something unusual from your normal encounters should be avoided. ****

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18): Take your time and do whatever chores you've been given to the best of your ability. Jumping in before you check out every angle of a situation isn't going to convince others you are right for the job. ***

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20): Getting involved in events that can lead to influential connections should be your top priority. Don't let someone's jealousy or demands stand between you and your goals. Offering compliments will ease a stressful situation. ****

Birthday Baby: You are imaginative, enchanting and perceptive. You are loving and adaptable.

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SUDOKU

Conceptis Sudoku By Dave Green

Sudoku is a number-placing puzzle based on a 9x9 grid with several given numbers. The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the same number only once. The difficulty level of the Conceptis Sudoku increases from Monday to Saturday.

Yesterday's SUDOKU Answer

Difficulty Level ★★★

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WONDERWORD By DAVID OUELLET

HOW TO PLAY: All the words listed below appear in the puzzle — horizontally, vertically, diagonally and even backward. Find them, circle each letter of the word and strike it off the list. The leftover letters spell the WONDERWORD.

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G C I D E R R E E A R D G I E
N S L E R Y T K S E L N N T N
I N E O F T O I T S I E I G I
W A M S I O R U S T V I P A D
O P I W B L P E T I E R E L E
L C T E B M T A T U N F E L K
L H C M O U H G O L B G R O N
O A U C P C A M E R A E C W I
F T E E N A G E R S C H O O L

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Yesterday's Answer: Fountainhead

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PAGE 25

Torres: Earthjustice lawsuit affects military's plans. PAGE 3
CUC waiting for executive director candidate to accept offer


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Cano 10th-inning homer gives AL 2-1 All-Star win



MIAMI (AP)—A new-look All-Star Game ended with an old-time score.

Robinson Cano homered off Cubs closer Wade Davis leading off the 10th inning and the American League beat the National League 2-1 Tuesday night in an All-Star Game dominated by this era's flame-throwers, rather than its stand-out sluggers.

Craig Kimbrel wiggled out of a jam in the ninth and right fielder Justin Upton made a lunging catch in the 10th to help the AL win its fifth in a row. And for the first time since 1964, the rivalry is back to all even—43 wins apiece with two ties, and each side has scored exactly 361 runs.

Andrew Miller finished off the win and celebrated with his AL teammates. Even though home-field advantage in the World Series no longer goes to the league that wins the All-Star Game, it was a victory worth savoring.

Cano earned the MVP honor with his one clutch swing. At 34, the Seattle second baseman was among the oldest players in a game built around so many of the sport's new, young stars. He sent a hanging curve off the back wall of the right-field bullpen, then blew a bubble with his gum when rounding the bases.

Cano's homer came exactly 50 years after the previous extra-inning homer in an All-Star Game, when Tony Perez hit a tiebreaking 15th-inning shot off Catfish Hunter in the NL's 2-1 win at Anaheim, California. Perez,



American League's Seattle Mariners Robinson Cano (22), second from left, is hugged by Cleveland Indians pitcher Andrew Miller, after winning the MLB baseball All-Star Game, Tuesday, July 11, 2017, in Miami. Cano hit a home run in the tenth inning to win the game. The American League defeated the National league 2-1.

now a Marlins executive, was among eight Latin-born Hall of Famers who threw out ceremonial first pitches.

Miguel Sano put the AL ahead in the fifth with a bloop RBI single against Alex Wood. Yadier Molina tied it in the sixth with a home run off Ervin Santana.

Molina had just entered behind the plate in the top half and snapped off an All-Star first—Nelson Cruz pulled a phone out of his uniform pants and asked the catcher to snap a photo of him with umpire Joe West.

Davis wasn't with the Cubs last fall when they won

the World Series for the first time in 108 years. He was acquired in a trade from Kansas City to fortify the bullpen, and was the only Cubs player in this showcase. Chicago has struggled this season, going into the break at 43-45.

Kimbrel, throwing at up to 100 mph, stranded runners at second and third to end the ninth, striking out Michael Conforto. The Boston closer wound up with the win.

Miller, whose Cleveland Indians lost the World Series in Game 7, got the save with some help from Upton.

A left fielder playing in right for the first time in four

years, Upton extended his arm on a full run to catch Corey Seager's liner leading off the 10th. Miller walked Joey Votto with two outs, then struck out rookie sensation Cody Bellinger.

The AL's first six hits were by first-time All-Stars but some things don't change. The AL has won 12 of 15 and 17 of the last 20 All-Star Games played to a decision.

The night's most-watched sluggers fizzled.

A night day after winning the Home Run Derby with 47 long balls, Yankees rookie sensation Aaron Judge went 0 for 3 with a strike-

out, groundout and flyout. Giancarlo Stanton, the star slugger of the hometown Marlins, was 0 for 3 with a pair of strikeouts and a dribbler in front of the plate.

NL pitchers struck out 14, including four by Carlos Martinez, three by Kenley Jansen and two each by starter Max Scherzer and Greg Holland. AL pitchers fanned nine.

In the first All-Star Game in Florida, Jonathan Schoop doubled off Wood with two outs in the fifth and came home when Sano blooped a single about a foot fair down the right-field line, 207 feet from home plate, where right fielder Bryce Harper, second baseman Daniel Murphy and first baseman Ryan Zimmerman—all from the Washington Nationals—were unable to reach it.

Two days shy of his 35th birthday, Molina became the oldest catcher to homer in an All-Star Game, driving a 95 mph from Santana into the right-field bullpen.

Molina was part of a modern All-Star moment in the top of the inning, when he entered wearing a shiny gold helmet ad chest protector. Cruz pulled a phone out of a uniform pants pocket when he stepped to the plate and asked Molina to take a picture of him posing with West, who last month became the third ump to work 5,000 regular-season games.

Scherzer, limited to one inning, used a full-count slider to strike out Judge, only third rookie to bat third in an All-Star Game after Joe DiMaggio in 1936 and Dick Wakefield in 1943.

"When you get to face the best from the other side and

you get the start, the adrenalin starts flowing and you want to throw everything as hard as you can," Scherzer said.

AL starter Chris Sale, who threw two innings, fanned Stanton in the first. The lefty also neared 100 mph with his fastest pitch of the season.

"I was able to let loose a little bit," Sale said. "I wouldn't want to take that style into the regular season."

Martinez hit 100 mph on four of 14 pitches in the third. He matched the most strikeouts by a St. Louis Cardinals pitcher in an All-Star Game, set by Dizzy Dean in 1934.

WEB GEM

Harper made a diving backhand catch in short right center as his cap fell off, robbing Salvador Perez of a hit for the final out of the second. Harper wore blue-and-orange spikes with the image of late Marlins star Jose Fernandez and the pitcher's No. 16 outlined in a circle.

WILD THING

Yankees reliever Dellin Betances, dealing with mechanical problems of late, threw just 12 of 23 pitches for strikes in the third. He walked Harper and Buster Posey, threw a pair of wild pitches and got out of a bases-loaded jam when Murphy grounded out. Betances joined Juan Marichal, Dave Stieb and John Smoltz as the only ones to throw two wild pitches in an All-Star inning.

"After I lost Harper I lost concentration a little bit," Betances said. "I was able to settle down and make pitches when I needed to."

No longball from All-Star sluggers Judge, Stanton

MIAMI (AP)—Aaron Judge's flyball to center field in the fifth inning triggered a crowd crescendo even though it came to rest in a glove shy of the warning track.

Giancarlo Stanton struck out twice and tapped out to the catcher, so his estimated distance averaged about 7 feet per plate appearance.

The Home Run Derby this was not.

The American League beat the National League 2-1 in 10 innings Tuesday night in the All-Star Game, and the marquee sluggers did their part to keep the score down.

Judge, the New York Yankees rookie sensation and Monday night's winner of the Home Run Derby, went 0 for 3 before departing in the fifth. He left three runners on base but was all smiles in the winning clubhouse.

"This was awesome," Judge said. "My first time coming to Miami, and the goal was to

have some fun and compete. That's what happened. We came out with a win. It was just an awesome experience all around. What a day. What a couple of days."

Miami Marlins slugger Stanton, last year's derby champ and this year's fan favorite, was also blanked as the NL designated hitter. He struck out in the first inning on a 98-mph fastball from Chris Sale, struck out in the third on a slider from Dellin Betances and managed a dribbler against Brandon Kintzler.

Even though Stanton went down swinging, and lost in the first round of the derby, he—like Judge—was upbeat at the end.

"What's the point of being an All-Star if you're going to be mad about things?" he said. "Just have fun."

Stanton ranked his fourth All-Star appearance different from the others.

"A lot more buzz," Stan-

ton said. "A lot more people rooting for me, which is cool. So this one was really cool, and special."

Judge struck out in the first on a 3-2 slider from Max Scherzer, grounded out in the third against Carlos Martinez and flied out against Alex Wood.

"You know it's a tough at-bat," Scherzer said. "It was my first time facing him, and I was trying to get a feeling how the at-bat would go. You toy with him and see what is working. Fortunately I threw a good 3-2 slider and got a swing and a miss."

With a grin, Judge conceded the Washington Nationals ace fooled him.

"I can see why he was the NL starter," Judge said. "I was nervous the first pitch, but after that it's go time. On 3-2 I was getting ready for 100 mph, and I got a slider."

Martinez said he and Judge discussed on Monday the pos-

sibility of a matchup. That was on Martinez's mind as Judge stepped to the plate.

"When he saw me he gave me a little smile," Martinez said. "It was a beautiful experience. He's got a quick bat, a fast bat, so I tried to use my strength, which is the fastball."

Given Stanton's high profile as the All-Star Game's hometown hero, his exit from the game was a bit surreptitious.

His final at-bat came in the fifth inning, and he was out of uniform and dressed for a night on the town by the seventh. But his name wasn't replaced on the scoreboard until Joey Votto batted for him in the eighth.

Don't expect to see much more of Stanton until the Marlins resume their season Friday.

"I'm going to take these two days," he said, "and hopefully don't see anyone and don't do a dang thing."

All-Star players remember late Marlins ace Jose Fernandez

MIAMI (AP)—Clayton Kershaw stood in the National League clubhouse before Tuesday's All-Star Game across from Jose Fernandez's locker, which serves as memorial to the Miami Marlins' dynamic right-hander.

"It's sad for sure to see that," said Kershaw, the Los Angeles Dodgers' ace. "Obviously he meant a lot to everybody, because his locker is still here. You reflect for sure."

Fernandez was a two-time All-Star before he died at 24 in a boat crash last September. Among his unfulfilled goals was to start in Tuesday's game at his home ballpark.

It would have happened if not for the accident, Marlins owner Jeffrey Loria said.

"His last five starts would probably have been one-hitters, so he would have forced

the issue," Loria said. "He is on my mind every day, every single day. It's something that doesn't disappear for me, unfortunately. No doubt he would have been an All-Star. He would have found a way to be the starter."

Marlins slugger Giancarlo Stanton agreed.

"His No. 1 thing to that point, besides winning Cy Young, was to start this game," Stanton said.

In tribute to Fernandez, NL All-Star right fielder Bryce Harper wore colorful shoes bearing the pitcher's image and uniform number 16.

Fernandez was the probable operator of the speeding boat that crashed into a jetty last Sept. 25, killing him and two other men, an investigation determined. It listed drugs and alcohol as factors in the crash.

At 37, Venus into 10th Wimbledon semi; Konta next

LONDON (AP)—Venus Williams' mother could not stop smiling and laughing. She had just watched her 37-year-old daughter reach the Wimbledon semifinals for the 10th time and, well, the whole thing was just a bit hard to believe.

"She says, 'I love my job!' and she means it. I guess she's kind of like a boxer: People think it's time for her to quit because she's too old," Oracene Price said after leaving Centre Court, where the roof was shut because of rain Tuesday. "But she keeps getting back in the ring - and she seems to be doing pretty well. This is really amazing."

Enjoying a career renaissance deep into her 30s, despite dealing with an energy-sapping disease, Williams rode a strong serve that produced eight aces, imposing returns and her court coverage of old to a 6-3, 7-5 victory over French Open champion Jelena Ostapenko of Latvia, edging closer to a sixth singles

title at the All England Club.

"The competition keeps you growing," Williams said. "You have to get better if you want to stay relevant."

Somehow, at age 37, she's done that. This was her 100th Wimbledon match, coming in her 20th appearance. The first of her trophies at the grass-court tournament came in 2000. And now, for the third match in a row, Williams beat a player who was born in 1997—after she made her Grand Slam debut that year.

"The first one was 20 years ago? Lord," Price said, her eyes wide, her chuckle loud. "Well, you know, that's a long time."

This is not exactly new, though. Williams is the only woman to have made the fourth round at each of the past six majors, and now she's into her third semifinal in that span. She made it that far at Wimbledon last year, too, before losing, and got to the final at the Australian Open in



AP
Venus Williams of the United States wipes her face during a change of ends break as she plays her Women's Singles Quarterfinal Match against Latvia's Jelena Ostapenko on day eight at the Wimbledon Tennis Championships in London Tuesday, July 11, 2017.

24th-seeded CoCo Vandeweghe of the U.S. 6-3, 6-3 in a match suspended at 2-all in the second set because of showers and moved from Court No. 1 to Centre Court so it could be finished indoors.

Rybarikova had never been past the third round in her 35 previous career majors, including seven opening-round exits in a row at Wimbledon from 2008-14. She missed the second half of last season after wrist and knee operations, and her ranking fell out of the top 400.

"I had a really tough time," Rybarikova said, "and right now, I'm here, and everything paid off."

In the last men's fourth-round match, Novak Djokovic took a medical timeout to have his right shoulder massaged, and he declared himself disappointed with the condition of the turf in the main stadium. Otherwise, Djokovic had little trouble eliminating 51st-ranked Adrian Mannarino of France 6-2, 7-6 (5), 6-4 in a match postponed Monday night because of darkness.

"It's been something that I've been dragging back and forth for a while now," Djokovic said about his shoulder. "But I'm still managing to play, which is the most important thing."

The men's quarterfinals Wednesday: Djokovic against Tomas Berdych, Roger Federer against Milos Raonic, defending champion Andy Murray against Sam Querrey, and Marin Cilic against Gilles Muller, who stunned Rafael Nadal in a marathon that ended 15-13 in the fifth set Monday.

Djokovic says Wimbledon courts 'not that great' this year

LONDON (AP)—Bothered by what he called a "hole" at Centre Court, Novak Djokovic complained about the condition of the grass at Wimbledon on Tuesday.

Djokovic, who defeated Adrian Mannarino in the fourth round, said the courts are among the worst he's played on in his 13 years at the All England Club.

"(The) courts, honestly, are not that great this year and many players feel the same, but it is what it is," Djokovic said in a television interview after his match ended. "I'm sure they're trying their best, but I've played on better courts."

Djokovic, a three-time Wimbledon champion and 12-time Grand Slam winner, initially expressed his disappointment with the court condition following a third-round victory over Ernests Gulbis on Saturday.

On Tuesday, playing with the roof closed, Djokovic could be seen after points picking up or kicking away small portions of grass that had loosened up on the baseline.

The second-seeded Serb lodged his disappointment with chair umpire Carlos Bernardes during the match and pointed out the issue afterward.

"He wanted me to show him, so I showed him," Djokovic said at a news conference. "His reaction wasn't that great."

Mannarino, who had not played on Centre Court until

he faced Djokovic, said his only concern about the surface was that he had to make sure he didn't slip during the match.

"To me, the Centre Court (was) really good, actually," Mannarino said. "Maybe he was complaining a little bit, but compared to the other courts I've been playing on before, it was good."

Tuesday was the first day persistent rain moved over southwest London since Wimbledon started. Because of the dry conditions, the 18 courts saw nearly uninterrupted play over the first seven days of the tournament, which led to consistent wear.

Neil Stubley, the club's head of courts and horticulture, said on Saturday that the measurements his staff had taken over the first week of play showed that the grass was considered to be healthy and within the acceptable standards of use.

He also expressed confidence that the surface at Centre Court would be able to hold up over the second week.

Simona Halep, whose quarterfinal loss to Johanna Konta was the third match on Centre Court on Tuesday, said she didn't notice the hole Djokovic had mentioned.

And Djokovic said the issue wasn't one of safety as much as it was about fair play.

"Grass is probably the most demanding and complex surface for maintenance," he said. "The more you play on it, the worse it actually gets, unfortunately."

January, when she was beaten by her younger sister, Serena.

"Who knows if she's lost a step?" said Williams' coach, David Witt. "She looks pretty good to me."

Williams revealed in 2011 that she was diagnosed with Sjogren's syndrome, which can sap energy and cause joint pain. As time went on, there were questions about whether she might retire, especially after a half-dozen first-round losses at majors. But she kept going, and with her recent successes, a championship this week would return the American to the top five in the rankings for the first time in six years.

"I just always felt like I

have to keep trying," said Williams, who repeatedly took advantage of Ostapenko's second serves at around 70 mph (110 kph). "That's all I felt like."

To get to what would be her ninth final at the All England Club, the 10th-seeded Williams will need to win Thursday against No. 6 Johanna Konta, the first British woman in the Wimbledon semifinals since Virginia Wade was the runner-up in 1978.

"I definitely feel that age is not a factor with her," Konta said about Williams. "She's just a tremendous champion, and I feel very, very humbled, and I'm very excited to share the court with her again."

With Wade, the 1977 champion, sitting in the Royal Box, Konta prevented Halep from rising to No. 1 by beating her 6-7 (2), 7-6 (5), 6-4. The result means that Karolina Pliskova, who lost in the second round, will replace Angelique Kerber, who departed in the fourth, atop the rankings next week.

The other semifinal will be Garbine Muguruza of Spain against 87th-ranked Magdalena Rybarikova of Slovakia. Muguruza, the 2015 Wimbledon runner-up and 2016 French Open champion, defeated Svetlana Kuznetsova 6-3, 6-4. Rybarikova, the lowest-ranked Wimbledon semifinalist since 2008, got past

Konta teaching history at Wimbledon with another victory

LONDON (AP)—With every victory at Wimbledon this week, Johanna Konta is teaching the British public more and more about its tennis history.

Tuesday's lesson involved Virginia Wade, the previous British woman to reach the semifinals at Wimbledon. Not too coincidentally, Wade was sitting in the Royal Box watching as Konta beat Simona Halep 6-7 (2), 7-6 (5), 6-4 to match that feat.

"I guess to be in the semifinals of my home Slam, and to do that in front of a full Centre Court, I mean, it's pretty, pretty special," Konta said.

The sixth-seeded Konta

was the first British woman to reach the quarterfinals at the All England Club since Jo Durie in 1984. She is now the first since Wade in 1978 to reach the semifinals.

Wade made the final that year, but lost to Chris Evert. Wade won the title a year earlier, however.

"I'm just surprised it's taken so long," Wade said. "It's fine to be the last British women's winner to win Wimbledon, but it's better to have plenty of British players to win. It's a win-win situation, frankly, and I'm thrilled for her."

Konta will next face Venus Williams on Thursday for a

spot in the final. Williams is a five-time Wimbledon champion who is playing in the semifinals at the All England Club for the 10th time in her 20th appearance.

Konta has won three of her five previous matches against Williams, but the American took the last one on clay at the Italian Open in May.

At the Australian Open last year, Konta reached her only previous major semifinal, beating Williams in the first round.

"We've had a few battles in the past," Konta said. "She's got the better of me the last time we played, so I'm really looking

forward to playing her."

One thing Konta will be able to rely on again in the semifinals will be another enthusiastic home crowd. On Tuesday, that enthusiasm led to a bizarre moment on match point when someone screamed and appeared to distract Halep.

"I think it's a part of sport, the crowd getting excited and getting sometimes a little too involved," Konta said. "I think we experienced it a couple of times in the match. All of us players have experienced that throughout our careers."

On Thursday, back on Centre Court, Konta will get to experience it all over again.

Mayweather-McGregor promo tour gets off to frenzied start



LOS ANGELES (AP)—Floyd Mayweather Jr. reached into a backpack and held out a \$100 million check for the crowd of 11,000 fight fans to see.

"Let me show you what a \$100 million fighter looks like," he said.

Conor McGregor interrupted from his stool behind the podium: "That's to the tax man."

Mayweather replied: "You're right. I'm the IRS, and I'm going to tax your ass."

The undefeated boxer and the Irish UFC champion have thrown their first jabs in a summer of verbal sparring before the fighting spectacle of the year.

Mayweather and McGregor kicked off a four-city promotional tour Tuesday at Staples Center, facing off in front of a raucous crowd that thoroughly enjoyed this circus' first stop in Hollywood. Both fighters promised a knockout, and they had a prolonged shouting match during their second faceoff, with UFC President Dana White stepping between them.

"I am fighting, and he is boxing," McGregor said. "It's two men at the top of their game competing. It's two worlds colliding. That enough is reason why this is what it is."

All but the most naive fight fans realize the promotion for this bout could be much more entertaining than the historic 154-pound fight Aug. 26 in Las Vegas.

3X3

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Games. World Cup events are also held regularly for 3x3.

Rangamar is positive that the CNMI will be able to send teams to FIBA Oceania competitions once MIBF starts hosting regular 3x3 tournaments next year.

"It's much easier to send



Boxer Floyd Mayweather Jr., left, and mixed martial arts fighter Conor McGregor exchange words during a news conference at Staples Center Tuesday, July 11, 2017, in Los Angeles. The two are scheduled to fight in a boxing match in Las Vegas on Aug. 26.

McGregor and Mayweather traded clever insults and profane boasts that quickly showed why this boxing match should be a rare spectacle - before the opening bell, anyway.

"He looks good for a seven- or eight-figure fighter, but I'm a nine-figure fighter," Mayweather said. "This (guy) made 3 million dollars his last fight, but we know that's training camp money for me."

The 40-year-old Mayweather has been coaxed out of his latest retirement for the colossal payday coming from this unique matchup. The bout will cost \$99.95 on high-definition pay-per-view, while tickets at T-Mobile Arena will range from \$500 to \$10,000 - and there aren't many \$500 seats.

In a tailor-made pinstripe suit that repeated a profane phrase in tiny letters as its stripe, McGregor didn't try to

disguise his glee at the prospect of his mammoth financial reward for seeing how his heavy hands can fare against Mayweather's famed defensive skills in this cross-disciplinary experiment.

McGregor got more personal than Mayweather, going after everything from the boxer's apparent money troubles to his attire. McGregor also risked racial offensiveness when he yelled, "Dance

for me, boy! Dance for me, son!" during an exchange with Mayweather.

"He's in a ... track suit," McGregor said, looking at Mayweather. "He can't even afford a suit anymore. The Rolls is a 2012 outside. He is (expletive). There's no other way about it. I'm going to knock him out inside of four rounds, mark my words."

Two years after his last fight and several years after his trash-talking heyday, Mayweather rose to the promotional challenge in an energetic, biting performance. The unbeaten star led his fans in a call-and-response cheer that derided McGregor as "easy work!"

"That's what the people want to see," Mayweather said. "To have a sold-out arena and just give these people something just real smooth and calm, they don't want that. That's not what they want. These fans want entertainment, and that's what we're here to give them."

And while the 40-year-old Mayweather acknowledged his skills have declined and

claimed his comeback is for one fight only, he also said he has "more than enough" to beat a rookie boxer.

"We know Mr. Tapout likes to quit," Mayweather said, referring to McGregor's submission loss to Nate Diaz in UFC competition last year.

When McGregor spoke to the media after the public show, Floyd Mayweather Sr. relentlessly heckled him from the back of the room. The 64-year-old trainer's presence provoked genuine amusement from the two-division mixed martial arts champion, who suggested he might not abide by the contract that would punish him for MMA tactics with an enormous financial penalty.

"Tell him as long as he speaks my name with respect, I will abide by the boxing rules," McGregor said to Mayweather Sr. "I'll abide by the Marquess of Queensberry Rules only if he speaks my name. If he disrespects me during this buildup, then maybe I might just bounce an elbow off his eyebrow. So that's on him how he does it."

KONQUER

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Saipan. The event here will be based on Saipan's history and landscape. The obstacle course will include hiking, running, and swimming. Highlighting what Saipan is all about."

The obstacle course is composed of 15 challenges. "The obstacle course will have two elements: challenge and fun. The degree of difficulty will be tested in the ramp jump with The Monster and Spider Man behind it. But even with that, we are making it less intimidating to the participants because we want people to finish the course and enjoy the whole Konquer experience."

"For elite athletes, we have Konquer enduro where they would run the course for time. For individuals or group of friends who wants to have fun, can repeat the course and not worry about race time, we have Konquer completion.

For companies that want to take advantage of the event and hold their team building exercise we have the Konquer business. For people who want to go straight to the core obstacles and skip the others we have Konquer sprint," Rivera added.

Konquer is open to men and women, residents and visitors, in all ages including children. Early registration is encouraged to get the early bird rate: \$750 for business team composed of 10 members, \$75 for 18 years old and above, \$40 for 15-17 years old and it is free for 14 years old and

below.

"Since you can choose any of the obstacle course that suits you, anyone can join even families with their children," Rivera said.

Konquer's vision is not only wellness in health but also wellness in promoting the beautiful landscape of the city there are visiting.

"One of Konquer's objectives is give reverence to the islands that they visit. The event will be held at the Gov. Eloy S. Inos Peace Park, which used to be a dumpsite. Now that it is converted into a beautiful park where we can do different things like hold events as big as Konquer. We want the community and people from other parts of the world to understand Saipan and what it can offer," Rivera said.

Konquer is guaranteed to give participants an experience of a lifetime, said Dave Rillera, DR Safety Consultant officer and Konquer Palau participant.

"I witnessed an old couple join in Palau and finished the race. They ran in their own pace, hand-in-hand and of course they received assistance especially in going over one wall but they went through the obstacle course and finished strong."

For more information and race registration, contact Rivera of DR Safety Consultant at (671) 688-7547 email: v.rivera@dr-safety-consultant.com or visit them at 2nd Floor Pacific Quick Print & Post building, Middle Road, Gapan

TEEN

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the players' individual technique, especially how they work on that technique or make decisions when they are under pressure."

The head coach with the help of his assistants Jerish Angeles and Jonathan Takano will also focus on the players' fitness once they resume training. The group holds practice sessions six times a week, with each training day lasting for two hours.

"We have to improve their stamina and core. We have been working on their physical fitness for the past several months, but they have to work harder to move to the next level," Mita said.

As for the training camp in Guam, the NMIFA technical director said it was very helpful to the team.

"It was a success as the boys learned a lot about team concept. They played for the team and played to win," Mita said.

The Teen Ayuyus had their first training match against Guam's U16 Boys National Team last Saturday and forced a draw, 2-2, while they beat Dededo FC/Wings FC U15 last Sunday, 5-0. For their last two friendly games, the visiting squad held Guam U16 to another draw last Monday, 2-2, and also had a standoff against the Islanders last Tuesday, 3-3.

"The boys showed good fighting spirit to win the last

two games despite being physically tired after two matches. Both games were competitive and we learned that one miss in the match can change the results," Mita said.

Besides the training matches, Mita and his assistants also had classroom discussions with the team.

"It was good that we spent time together because the coaching staff learned that many boys need to change their eating habits to build their stamina and core. We are able to advise them," said Mita, adding that the group is thankful to NMIFA president Jerry Tan, Guam Football Association, the players' parents and their other supporters for making the training camp possible.

Twenty-two players attended the camp and the list includes John Michael Rojas, Joshua Mendez, Floyd Muna, John Martin Palad, Jason Quimzon, Ichiro and Taka Borja, Eunsyu Hahn, Ian Maniago, Terrance Montenegro, Jhoey Noble, Mark Salamat, Razeff Altamirano, Kirt Andon, Aloyzeus Angeles, John Guiller Canape, Edward Cho, Sebastian Manabat, Joseph Rasa, Joshua Waldo, Mark Esalan, and Reginald Pascual. The Teen Ayuyus will play a couple of more training matches against other teams on Saipan this month and in August, and hopefully one more friendly game versus a visiting squad before they head to Thailand for the qualifier.

2017 Francisco M. Diaz Memorial Youth League Playoffs

PHOTOS By ROSELYN B. MONROYO



The 670 XVIII's Roberto Paragados, right, takes off for a left-handed shot against three Natibu Warriors defenders during the second quarter of their playoff game in the boys U18 division of the 2017 Francisco M. Diaz Memorial Youth League last week at the Gilbert C. Ada Gymnasium.



The 670 XVI's Sean Rafols, center, loses his balance after colliding with an Ol'Aces Elite defender in the rebound play.



A Natibu Warriors player pulls up for a jumper against the out-stretched arms of the 670 XVIII's France Muna.



The 670 XVI's Jehp Ejercito falls after a nudge from the Ol'Aces Elite's E.J. Abejo, while the latter's teammates Rikko Saralu and Peter Fred step in to provide help defense.



A Natibu Warriors player, left, attempts a reverse layup against a 670 XVIII defender.



The 670 XVIII's Joshua Chavez faces a phalanx of Natibu Warriors defenders.



The Ol'Aces Elite's Peter Fred, center, loses the ball after being pressured by two 670 XVI defenders.



A Natibu Warriors player fakes off the defense of the 670 XVIII's Roberto Paragados, right.



Cano 10th-inning homer gives AL 2-1 All-Star win

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Saipan Tribune Sports

At 37, Venus into 10th Wimbledon semi; Konta next

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SAIPAN TRIBUNE

Teen Ayuyus to buckle down to work



By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER

The CNMI U15 Boys National Team will only take a brief break before resuming their training in preparation for the AFC U16 Championship 2018 Qualifiers.

“After a few days of rest, we will restart our training,” head coach and Northern Mariana Islands Football Association technical director Michiteru Mita said after the Teen Ayuyus completed a five-day training camp in Guam and returned to Saipan last Tuesday evening.

The team had a lot of work to do with the Asian Football Confederation-sanctioned tournament just two months away. The Group G qualifier



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO
The CNMI Boys U15 National Team players and officials exchange ideas during a classroom discussion in their training camp in Guam early this week.

where the CNMI will battle Indonesia, Timor-Leste, Laos, and host Thailand will run from Sept. 16 to 24.

“We showed improvement

on defense during the camp. However we need to work on our attacking,” Mita said. “To do that, we need to improve

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Konquer is coming to Saipan

By BEA CABRERA
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REPORTER

In line with the Marianas Visitors Authority's promotion of sports tourism in the CNMI, Konquer sports is coming to Saipan. The 2017 Konquer Sports Tour is happening on Saipan on Sept. 9 at the Gov. Eloy S. Inos Peace Park in

Puerto Rico.

Konquer promotes wellness through play where participants go through, under, and over natural and man-made obstacle challenges and make a run to the finish line. It started in Guam three years ago and from there, the Konquer tour of wellness continued the jour-



ney to Palau last June 9-11, and finally, in the CNMI this September.

DR Safety Consultant marketing manager Valentina Rivera said, “We are responsible for marketing and promoting Konquer on island. It is the first Konquer on

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CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

The Monster will be one of the challenging obstacles in the forthcoming Konquer event on Saipan this September.

3x3 to be included in MIBF's calendar

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER

With the growing popularity of 3x3 basket-



ball in the world, Mariana Islands Basketball Federation will add the sport to their calendar of events for next season.

“We’re looking at holding 3x3 tournaments in the men’s and women’s divisions in the open category and various age groups. Majority of the member-countries of FIBA Oceania have been consistently sending teams to regular tournaments in the region and hopefully we could do that, too,” MIBF development officer Elias Rangamar said.

FIBA Oceania holds 3x3 competitions for men’s and women’s open, and U18 and U23 age groups. There are also two events held every year for the open division—the 3x3 Pacific Championships and 3x3 Oceania Championships. Last year, Guam defeated New South Wales, 11-9, to top the Pacific Championships held in Gold Coast, Australia.

In the world stage, the International Olympic Committee’s executive board announced last month the inclusion of 3x3 in the basketball program for the 2020 Tokyo Olympic

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ROSELYN B. MONROYO

Mt. Carmel School’s Joseph Muna, right, unloads a shot against NMI Rollers’ June Alipio during the second quarter of their playoff game in the boys U18 division of the Diaz youth caging last week at the Gilbert C. Ada Gymnasium. Mariana Islands Basketball Federation sanctions the youth league and will also hold 3x3 tournaments next season.